

# Our Redeemer's Voice

May 2026



## Confirmation Thoughts



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

We'll be having confirmation before too long! It will probably be in about 3 or 4 months. Rebekah Tackitt is nearing the completion of her lessons, and if we are able to have at least two lessons a month, then we will hit our target. With our schedules of work, school, and activities not always syncing up, meeting together for class has not been the easiest thing.

I am going to take this opportunity to write a few things about confirmation. First of all, we remember the close connection that baptism and confirmation share. A long time ago, when years only used three digits, baptisms and confirmations were done by the bishop of the region/diocese, when it was feasible.

The Church was much smaller then and it was easier for these things to be done by the bishop, who was the supervisor of the churches in a geographic region. The bishop would show up for the baptism and at the same service would confirm what had just taken place, making a declaration that this baby had been duly baptized.

As the Church grew in size and dioceses became larger, it became harder for the bishops to travel and conduct every confirmation of the baptism that had just occurred. To speed this article up, over centuries the two things drifted further and further apart. Local priests would do the baptizing and eventually the bishop would show up to confirm that the child/children had indeed been baptized.

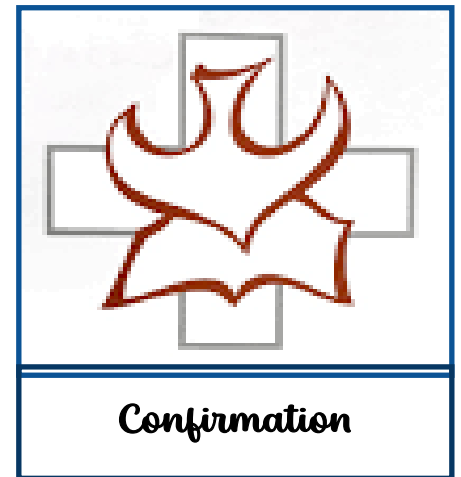
The local priests continued to handle the baptisms. And the bishops would examine the confirmand, who is the one to be confirmed. Yet the confirmands did not display adequate knowledge of the Christian faith. So an educational component was added and the local priests were given the responsibility for teaching.

And here we are. There was a schism in the Church in 1054. Division arose and locked in. There was now an Eastern Church and a Western Church. Yet some things remained. Holy Baptism is still conducted by the local pastor. In our Lutheran branch we do not have bishops come to do the confirming, but there is still the educational component and the pastor of the congregation does the confirming.

Traditions arose. Confirmation used to start in the fall. Why? Because the harvest had been completed and the teenagers were free to study. But confirmation had to be completed by Palm Sunday, Pentecost at the very latest. Why? Because those same teenagers had to help with spring planting. As we moved from an agrarian culture to an urban, industrialized one, the church kept the same schedule, typically following the school calendar.

And confirmation became a big event. It is one of the four milestone services (Baptism, Holy Matrimony, and the Funeral T being the other three milestones). Confirmation still retains its close connection to Holy Baptism.

Confirmation is a reaffirmation of Baptism. What our parents and sponsors said at the time of our baptism, we now say →



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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

for ourselves. We have been taught the Christian faith and brought up in it. We make this faith our own, taking our place in the long line of Christians who are following the Lord and keeping His cross in front of their eyes.

Rebekah will complete her lessons "soon". And the rite of Confirmation will happen after that. If you would like to see what the service will look like, you can find it on p272 in our Service Book.

**Joint Ascension Day Service** Forty Days after Easter is when we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. Last year we hosted a service and members from Faith Bear and Concordia Wilmington joined us. Pastor Thress played the organ and Pastor Kummer preached. This year Faith will host the 7 p.m. service. Pastor Kummer will lead the worship and I will handle the preaching. This is a good opportunity to 1) celebrate the victory parade of Jesus and 2) see a church you might not be familiar with and see how they do things similarly and differently. Faith is located at 2265 Red Lion Rd, Bear DE 19701.

**New Opportunities for Service** We need to compile a list of ushers and formulate a schedule. A list of responsibilities has been written and we will be having a meeting following a Sunday service to go over those responsibilities. We have several names already but if you would like to share in the ushering task, please contact the church office.

**May travels** Pr. Thress, Circuit Visitor for Circuit 1, has asked me to represent him at our Southeastern District Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors meeting May 11-12 in Richmond VA. He cannot physically be present and needs a representative. I'll be in KC from May 17th to the 23rd. Matthew graduates on the 19th and I'll spend good time with everyone out there, parents included. Pastor Rogers will fill in for me on the 17th and it will be nice to renew acquaintances with him.

*Blessings, Pastor*

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## A Message in the Chalk

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### "The Path of Life"

*"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy at your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Ps. 16:11*

This piece of chalk art created by Elva Hurst in 2025 helps portray the path of life many people travel. Notice how dark the tree is in the left foreground, telling the obvious truth that there are some dark periods in our life, times when life seems, well, lifeless. Yet, also notice how colorful the foliage is, that death is not the victor. After a time of slumber the earth awakens; after a time of death, new life emerges. The path winds on endlessly, from carefree youthfulness to the excitement of young adulthood and the vitality of our middle years to wherever the LORD leads us. Of

course God's rainbow is in the clouds, a reminder to our LORD that he will never again wipe away life from the face of the earth. Our paths are traversed in the light of Jesus, who is the Light of the World. There is a cross over the gazebo. This is Elva's message to us that throughout our journey on the path of life the cross of our savior Jesus is there to remind us of the grace of the Father's love, the mercy of Jesus' sacrifice, and the beacon of the Holy Spirit's presence.

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### THROUGH THE WORSHIP WINDOW



## May—The Four Sundays of Easter

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*From May 2019 ORLC Archives By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

The post Resurrection story includes the time when Peter and others went fishing. Jesus appears and guides them to a huge catch of fish. This also includes Jesus reinstatement of Peter in light of his denials. This enables Peter to carry on his ministry.

*Continued Next Page*

*Worship Window from Page 2* — Our Gospel journey takes us back to a reminder of the refusal of the Jews to accept their Messiah. It includes Jesus promise of the coming Holy Spirit who will enable them to spread the Gospel message.

The overview includes Jesus final appearance and his reference to the fulfillment of the many prophecies that point to Him and His salvation completion.

Rather than Old Testament readings, our first readings are take from Acts in this season. The first message describes the conversion of Saint Paul on the road to Damascus, when Saul is called to be the evangelist to the Gentiles.

The story continues with the details of Paul's several missionary journeys in the Middle East. He works to establish congregations in all the cities he visits and in some cases returns to strengthen them or sends his followers to do so.

Meanwhile Peter is also commissioned to spread the Gospel to the gentiles by a vision. Thus the church grew among both the Jews and Gentiles.

The final Sunday in Easter is the Ascension of Our Lord. After His final words and encouragement, Jesus is taken up into heaven. The angels that appeared told the disciples that they would see Jesus return in the same way He was taken up.

A Post Script: As Summer takes over our weather and climate, it is a good time to rejoice in the many blessings we receive from the Lord.—Arlen



## A Friend in High Places

**By Dr. Kari Vo for Lutheran Hour Ministries May 27th 2025**

*Acts 1:3-4a, 7a, 8-11 – [After Jesus rose from the dead,] He presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He ordered them*

*not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father ... He said to them, ... "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when He had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."*

Ascension Day is one of those holidays that a lot of Christians never think of. It's always on a Thursday, for starters; and work or school makes it harder for people to get together to celebrate.

But sometimes I think our ignorance keeps us from celebrating. Why is Jesus' ascension important? Is it just God's way of ending the story of Jesus' visible earthly life, or is there something more going on?

I think there's something more. Because the first thing to notice is that Ascension is not the undoing of Jesus' incarnation. Jesus keeps His human nature, including His flesh, blood, and bones; He will keep them forever. And that means there is a human being at the center of the universe, sitting at the right hand of God the Father. We have a friend;—a relative!;—in high places; and we can cry out to Him when we need help, being absolutely sure that He loves us and will speak on our behalf.

Because that's the other meaning of Ascension. Jesus now has power and authority over the whole universe, including our world. God the Father has done this so Jesus can "give eternal life to all whom You have given [Me]. And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:2b-3). Jesus uses that authority to bless us with eternal life, life full of joy and love and peace.

So as we get on with our lives in this dark and broken world, we have the joy of knowing that Jesus is watching over us and caring for us. While He was on earth He lay down His life to rescue us and to bring us from death to everlasting life; and now that He is risen from the dead and rules in heaven, what other wonderful gifts will He give us?

# Our Redeemer News & Notes

**SPECIAL ASCENSION DAY SERVICE & COMMUNION AT FAITH LUTHERAN**—Our Redeemer, Concordia and Faith will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord with a community church service with communion. The service will be held 7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church located on Red Lion Road in Bear, DE on May 14th



**PRAYER LIST**— Bonnie, Karin, Fred, Ramona, Nancy, Mark, Karen, Mimi, Mary, Ginny, Faith, Brenda, Michael, Bill, Janet, Charlu, Jessie, Betty, Sarah, Sandy, Libby, Mike, and Louise.

**PASTOR AWAY**— Pastor will be out of office May 2 for a meeting in Germantown, on May 11 & 12 for a district meeting and May 16 through 28 for vacation. Pastor Ray Rogers will serve as supply pastor on May 17.

**FELLOWSHIP** — Fellowship Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. Please join us after the service for coffee and to say hello. We are always looking for someone to bring the snacks. Let Lina know. You can also sign up to bring items. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. May fellowship will be on the 10th. —*Lina*

**COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026**—*Council meetings* are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. (May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16). *Voters' Assembly (Congregational Meetings)* will be held on Sundays: May 31, September 27 and the Annual Meeting on November 15.



**THANK YOU ROBIN**—Thank you for your incredible dedication and service to the church council while serving on the Education Committee over these many years. The Council and Church recognizes that you put a lot of time and effort into overseeing, developing and implementing Sunday School lesson plans during your time on the Council. We appreciate you for that, as well as your thoughtful input on other important matters and challenges that the Church has faced during your tenure.

**ORCHARD**—Join us May 6 at 6 p.m. for an evening in the garden. Bring your favorite beverage and a snack to share with neighborhood gardeners. All are welcome. Come out and see how the garden community are fulfilling the mission of the ORCHARD.

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**—The Little Free Library is a gift to those who continue to use it. We always appreciate the donation of children's, young adult, and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books.

**BIBLE STUDY**—Bring your coffee and join us each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** — All men, those in your household, and friends are invited to join us in May at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee. Date pending.

**NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS**—News to be included in Sunday's bulletin is due Tues. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of the month.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** —The Sunday School seasons ends on Sunday May 10 and will resume on the first and third Sundays. Beginning in September. This month Sunday School will be on the 3rd and the 10th only.

 <b>Stewardship</b>		
Stewardship	What it means	Action
Time	Using your time for God	Attend services, volunteer
Talent	Using your skills	Creating, singing, tech
Treasure	Financial giving	Give regularly
Prayer	Spiritual support	Pray daily for others
Service	Helping others	Help in liturgy and events

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## News & Notes.... CONTINUED

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**BUILD A BAG**—Congratulations to the Build A Bag team for an outstanding year. Because of generous donations of used bedding and materials and several additional helpers, enabled the group to make a record breaking 31 adult and 3 child sized sleeping bags. The finished sleeping bags were delivered to Hope on Deck and the Newark Empowerment Center. A big shout out goes Marybeth, Lina, Ruth, Paul, Elizabeth, Tameria from Our Redeemer and Theresa from the neighborhood. Bonnie Johnston and friend from Dover also donated materials and stopped by to lend a hand.

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## Daughter of the King: Rahab *Rahab—Forgiven (Rahab's Story: Joshua 2; 6: 2*

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### IN THE WORD

*And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? (James 2:25).*

### OF THE WORD

It has been said one shouldn't shake the family tree too hard as you never know what may fall out. We might expect our Lord Jesus' family tree to be impeccable, but listed in the genealogy is Rahab, the prostitute who aided spies sent to survey the land God promised to His people. She is named again in Hebrews: *By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient ... (Hebrews 11:31a).*

With faith and repentance Rahab confesses to the spies "... *for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath*" (Joshua 2:11b). Rahab had heard of the mighty acts God had done in leading the Jews out of Egypt and she believed Him to be the only true God. Rahab's story is good news for all of us. We are all sinners in need of forgiveness. God does not overlook our sin. But God does love us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to bear the sins of the world. We have been redeemed through His blood. Like Rahab, we have been justified through our faith.

### WALKING WITH MY LORD

Father, forgive me for my sins. Through Your Holy Spirit may I be led to confess them, remembering the price Jesus paid for my eternal life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Water of Life. Marcie Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer authors. 4/16/26; 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

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## Remembering the Ones Who Gave All

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*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row...*

This 1915 poem, by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian, a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit on the front lines during World War I, began the tradition of wearing a poppy in honor of fallen soldiers on Memorial Day.

His poem described the devastation and loss of comrades left lying on a French field that was dotted with clusters of red poppies after the Second Battle of Ypres on April 24, 1915.

After the battle, moving among the dead and wounded, McCrae witnessed the heartbreaking loss of life and horror left after the Germans unleashed a volley of lethal chlorine gas against Allied Forces. As he tended the wounded, he discover his friend Lt. Alexis Helmer, had not survived the battle.

*...That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

# Orphan Grain Train Happenings



**MID ATLANTIC BRANCH ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN HAPPENINGS** — We continue to look for an available warehouse. Keep praying. We are hoping to move by September and we believe the Lord is encouraging us to stay in southern Chester County.

Another shipment left for the Republic of Georgia March 18. The shipment included clothes for women, men, children and infants, mostly for summer but some winter; bedding, shoes, purses, stuffed toys, fabric, bicycles, 137 hygiene kits, 42,000 meals and miscellaneous items. We may soon be sending another shipment to Kentucky.

Our updated OGT brochures have arrived. Volunteers will be needed to help us have a presence at 2 of the coming events at Penn Township Park. The location is across Old Baltimore Pike from the YMCA (just down the street from our warehouse). The township will provide us with a table, 2 chairs and a tent. Save these dates: Thursday June 25 from 10-12; Saturday August 1 from 2-6. Let Mary Lou know if you can help with times and dates available..

Students from the Avon Grove High School Humanitarian Club, with Celia Polin their Social Studies teacher, collected clothes, school supplies, and toiletries to donate to OGT. They were joined by students from the AGHS National Honor Society volunteering at the warehouse on Saturday, March 14.

Kennett Square Library hosted a Non Profit Volunteer Day on Saturday, March 21. Rob and Mary Lou represented MAB, one of 42 non-profit organizations represented, chatting with 30-40 individuals who stopped to find out more about our work. We're looking forward to seeing some of them at the warehouse!

Hope on Deck generously shared some of their overflow contributions with us.

A group of women from the Cochranville area have made us their donation point for pillowcase dresses, sending 228 so far! *Mary Lou McKee, Communications Manager, MAB*



## Joyous Spring Blessings to All From LCM

**LCM STUDENTS ARE CELEBRATING** an amazing year of ministry, fellowship, abundant new students, faith, growth, and laughter-filled community at Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!

April included a wonderful day at Longwood Gardens for our spring retreat; a beautiful Saturday morning hike; and joyous Easter celebrations, including worship conversations, an Easter egg hunt, and egg dyeing and painting. (Please see the photo below.) We're excited for May's events, including celebrating our graduating senior, Meghan, and finishing out this academic year well and faithfully together.

We continue to seek new members for our Directing Committee (governing board.) If you have a heart for young adults and campus ministry, and you'd like to connect with LCM in a new way, please contact me. We'd also like to welcome you to two upcoming events at the LCM chapel:

**Senior Honor Night** on Tuesday evening, May 12: Group photos at 6:30 PM, with worship beginning at 6:45 PM, with a light reception to follow.

**LCM's Thank You Party** on Saturday afternoon, June 13: An open house at the chapel from 1 to 4 PM. All students, alumni, and friends of the ministry are welcome, as we kick off the summer before our 75<sup>th</sup> year by giving thanks for all who help this ministry to grow and thrive. We're grateful for you!

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for the students and volunteers of LCM. We especially welcome prayers for confidence, grace, and courage for **Meghan**, our graduating senior, as well as prayers for God's continued blessings, guidance, and protection for **Rachel** and **Vanessa**, who were both baptized this academic year.

*Mindy Holland, Minister of Word & Service  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD  
302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*

Please also pray for doors to open wide before our students to summer employment and internships as this school year draws to a close. Thank you! We wish you all God's blessings and peace



Students—never too old to dye Easter eggs.






*Every other month Our Redeemer's Voice will spotlight a different member of our congregation. Names are selected randomly. We have so many in our congregation who have let their light shine at Our Redeemer and beyond. We appreciate every one, everyday! If you have someone you would like to put in the spotlight, let us know.*



# MAY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANISTS Julie USHERS Arlen, Denny	LECTORS 5/3 Julie 5/10 Stephen 5/17 Pau; 5/24 Bob 5/31 Emily		1	2	1	2
3 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 2 10 a.m. Sunday School . Jane 	4	Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	6 Garden Social 6 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS 2 10 a.m. Julie Fellowship Sunday Mother's Day	11 CHECA 7 p.m.	12 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	13 Council 7 p.m. Zoom	14 Ascension Day 7 p.m. Communion At Faith Lutheran	15	16
17 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 2 10 a.m. Sunday School . PASTOR RAY ROGERS Julie 	18	19 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS 3 10 a.m. Worship—Digital	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATED</b>	26 Announcement Deadline	27	28	29	30 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
31 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS3 10 a.m. Sunday School Julie 	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5	6

**PASTOR ON VACATION 5/17 — 5/23**

**PASTOR-DISTRICT MEETING, VA**

**PASTOR-  
MEETING, PA**

# May Bible Readings

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Titus, Philemon
- 2 Psalm 121  
Hebrews 1-4
- 3 Psalm 122  
Hebrews 5-7
- 4 Psalm 123  
Hebrews 8-10
- 5 Psalm 124  
Hebrews 11-13
- 6 Psalm 125  
James 1-3
- 7 Psalm 126  
James 4-5
- 8 Psalm 127  
1 Peter 1-2
- 9 Psalm 128  
1 Peter 3-5
- 10 Psalm 129  
2 Peter
- 11 Psalm 130  
1 John 1-3
- 12 Psalm 131  
1 John 4-5
- 13 Psalm 132  
2 John, 3 John, Jude
- 14 Psalm 133  
John 1-2
- 15 Psalm 134  
John 3-4
- 16 Psalm 135  
John 5-6
- 17 Psalm 136  
John 7-8



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

- 18 Psalm 137  
John 9-10
- 19 Psalm 138  
John 11-12
- 20 Psalm 139  
John 13-14
- 21 Psalm 140  
John 15-16
- 22 Psalm 141  
John 17-18
- 23 Psalm 142  
John 19
- 24 Psalm 143  
John 20-21
- 25 Psalm 144  
Acts 1-2
- 26 Psalm 145  
Acts 3-4
- 27 Psalm 146  
Acts 5-6
- 28 Psalm 147  
Acts 7-8
- 29 Psalm 148  
Acts 9-10
- 30 Psalm 149  
Acts 11-12
- 31 1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Acts 13-14, 23-24

