

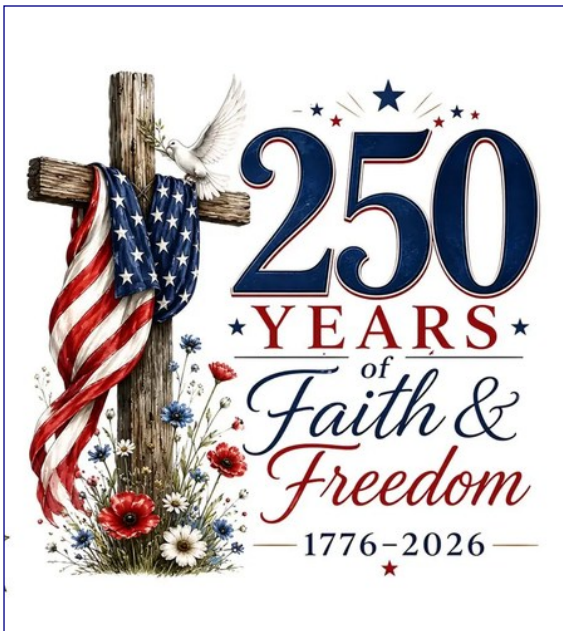
Our
Redeemer's Voice
JULY 2026



THE PRIVILEGE OF FREEDOM

Wow, 250 years is quite a number! It is good for us to recount the historical events that have brought us to this time. Here are just a few...

Roanoke colony began in the late 1500s even though they disappeared like a pre-colonial Amelia Earhart.



While our thoughts are on the manger and tree at Christmas time, we recall George Washington leading colonial forces across the Delaware to surprise the British army in New Jersey.

A relatively short distance from here Pres. Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, laying the foundation for his Emancipation Proclamation, which would become the basis for the civil rights of all citizens in this country.

We can visit museums across the country, read the roadside markers, and take pictures standing by statues, monuments, and memorials. Those are important places, helping us to see the place our country has in human history, and how ordinary people have worked for the sake of something bigger than themselves. The Constitution of the United States gives witness to some of

those big things. Four of those big things are in the First Amendment alone- Freedom of speech, of assembly, of the press, of religion.

Freedom of religion is cherished in this country and the story of America cannot be told without it. The Puritans came to Massachusetts Bay Colony seeking religious liberty. Roger Sherman helped establish Rhode Island for the same reason. The Quaker William Penn helped make Pennsylvania the most religiously tolerant of the 13 colonies. Maryland was a Roman Catholic colony and Virginia was Anglican. New Sweden/Delaware received a lot of Lutheran immigrants and there were large numbers of Lutherans in New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the Shenandoah Valley. The German Lutherans from Saxony would later sail to New Orleans in the mid-1800s and then go up the Mississippi River to Perry County Missouri. Mormon founder Joseph Smith was born in Vermont, died in Illinois, and his followers established the Utah territory as a safe haven for the practice of their religion. And there are many more episodes from our nation's history that reveal



THIS MONTH...

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

our country's desire for religious liberty.

Every time we come for worship or meet to sew sleeping bags or gather to study the Word we do so because we have the freedom to do such a thing. That is still considered a novelty among the nations of the world. There are countries that have state religions with a wide breadth of tolerance and countries that have state religions with very little tolerance for other faiths and practices. And there are some countries that try to diminish the presence of any sort of religion. The United State's freedom of religious expression is indeed novel.

For at least 250 years people of various religions have been able to practice their religion as they see fit. We rejoice in that great privilege though sometimes we may feel a little uncomfortable as there are religious teachings and practices that greatly differ from ours. And while we have the freedom to assemble our neighbors also have the freedom not to assemble. Attendance at worship services is by no means compulsory. A look at the neighborhoods you drive by on your way to our church can easily tell you that.

Our country marks 250 years of trying to establish a more perfect union. It is something we are always striving for, something that is always just beyond our fingertips. It is wonderful that we were fortunate to be born in this country where certain rights are acknowledged as coming from a benevolent Creator. We call that Creator God the Lord. And in this country we have the right to practice our Lutheran/Christian faith as we gather on Sunday morning and as we live Monday through Saturday. We have immense freedom to share what the Lord has freely given to us.

Thanks be to God that we can live as citizens of this country and as members of God's church. Happy birthday America! May God bless this land and all the countries of the world.

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus, Pastor



PENTECOST CONTINUES

From July 2020 ORLC Archives By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair

July begins with the Gospel message *Rest for the Weary* and the admonition; *Come to Me — I will give you rest — My yoke is easy and my burden is light*. The message continues with the parable of the Sower and illustrates that Satan is always active, trying to remove the saving Word from believers in Christ Jesus.

The next parable is the one that tells of the weeds of Satan that are combined with the good seeds; God is patient in waiting to harvest so that none are lost.

The parables of Jesus continue with the hidden treasure and valuable pearl. With the parable of the net we find that not all will be accepted into the Lord's kingdom with Him being the judge.

As the Old Testament moves through July there are prophesies of the coming King and in Isaiah the promises of the blessings of the Messiah and the Lord's provision for His creation. There is also a warning that God's people must avoid idols, pointing out that they are only man-made images.



As the month ends the message tells of Israel as they take over the holy land in their migration to the land of promise.

The Epistle readings are from Romans and include the reminder that under Grace we are dead to sin and alive in Christ. Paul uses marriage as an example of our relationship in the Lord. The role of Law and Gospel are shown, and we are urged to live in the Spirit and hold fast to salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus, which is our heritage as His sons and daughters.

Remain faithful to the Lord who is faithful to us.

A LITTLE LIGHT READING

Daily Devotion by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour.

Job 1:8-12a – And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? Have You not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face.” And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. ...”

Daniel, a friend of mine, tells me he went through a Job-like experience when he was in high school.

He was living this fairytale life when the lights went out. His world collapsed. Everything fell apart. His guidance counselor at his school knew that Daniel was a Christian. So, he encouraged Daniel to read the book of Job. But not because he wanted to strengthen Daniel's faith. He wanted to destroy it. He wanted to confront Daniel with the senseless suffering of this world and the cold silence of God. He wanted Daniel to curse God in the dark and reject him. That's why he suggested Job.

One night, Daniel took his advice. He read the whole book of Job, from start to finish, all 42 chapters in one sitting. There's an illuminating passage from another part of the Old Testament. It says that people will see in God what they bring to God. To the crooked, God seems tortuous. To the proud, God looks like a monster. But to those who need mercy, God shows Himself merciful. To the broken, God is Savior (see 2 Samuel 22:26-28). Daniel went in Job's darkness to God that night, broken. He came baptized into the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Daniel sat in the darkness next to Job with just a little light of Christ, and he says that it saved his faith.

The book of Job is not light reading. But Christians do read it in the *light* of Christ. Jesus' light does not dispel all the book's mysteries for us. We read it and are still confronted with the darkness. Why does God allow such suffering to come to some, but not others? Why is God so often silent when we're in pain? Why doesn't God do something about this, now? We don't know what the answers are. We only know *Who* the answer is. We know who found us when our world fell apart and the lights went out. We know what Jesus did for us on the cross. So, we trust that if God's love could shine on that darkest day, in the suffering and death of Jesus, then His love will one day finally break through every other shadow of doubt, when Jesus returns to raise the dead and restore our losses. And for now, He sits with us in the darkness. For now, Jesus is enough light to live by.

WE PRAY: Dear Jesus, when the darkness comes, show me the way. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever had something like a "Job" experience? How did you cope?
2. What is the difference between knowing "what" the answer is versus "who" the answer is?

When could you set aside two and half hours to read or listen to all of Job? (You can listen to a dramatic reading of Job here: https://scholar.csl.edu/book_of_job/1/) What passages from the New Testament might help light the way for you through the darkness of Job?

OUR REDEEMER NEWS& NOTES

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

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 sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. July fellowship scheduled for the 12th. —*Lina*

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 July 25 at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee.

OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES *(Continued)*

COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026—Council meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. (July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16). Voters' Assembly (Congregational Meetings) will be held on Sundays; Sept. 27 and the Annual Meeting on Nov. 15.



COME RING THE HAND CHIMES WITH US—You can learn to play the hand chimes even if you can't read music! We have a small group of players, and we're eager to expand so we can play the introit and maybe perform a song someday. We are still figuring out a rehearsal schedule, but it will most likely be a weekday morning. Contact Kathy O'Malley at omalleykath-mar@gmail.com. A first private lesson at church is available in case you're shy but still want to learn. If you can count, you can play! —Kathy

COOLING PROTOCOLS—The fans in the church are placed strategically for the comfort of everyone. If you find that the fan is blowing directly on you and is too much, please move to another pew. Do not turn the fan off. To continue to ensure the comfort of all, please keep the partition between the church and the overflow room closed before and after church. To help keep energy costs down, please shut all doors to rooms not being used to increase cooling efficiency during the summer months. Thank you. —Bob

BUILD A BAG—Before you know it, fall will be here and the sleeping bag project will reawaken to continue making a difference for the homeless and those in need in our community. If you are curious about what we do are interested in helping out, see Marybeth, Lina or Ruth. No sewing skills needed.

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. If you have a moment when leaving church, stop by and straighten up the books. Check to make sure there no unacceptable materials left. —Julie

NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS—News to be included in Sunday's bulletin is due Tuesday morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of the month. You can view the newsletter on our website, OurRedeemerNewark.org, or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/ourredeemernewark. Printed copies are sent to our homebound each month. If you would like a printed copy, Please let the secretary know.

THE ORCHARD—A dozen gardeners and friends gathered around the garden on June 24 to garden tips and talk about some of the challenges in the garden. There were plenty of healthy as well as some indulgent snacks to share.

Robin took everyone through a test your knowledge garden quiz. Brodie talked about the Three Sisters method of planting he used in his plot. This practice includes corn planted with an understory of climbing beans/peas as well as squash/pumpkin plants that help shade the understory, saving water and protecting from weeds. It is an indigenous people practice of gardening to maximize space.

Continued Next Page



Early Summer in
the Garden



OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES *(Continued)*

ORCHARD *Continued*

Already some of the plants are giving back. Lettuce, beet greens, strawberries, cucumbers and tomatoes are ripening in the garden.

We have also been so far blessed and are thankful with a fair amount of rain that has been so beneficial to the young plants. Join us for our next social sometime in early fall!

SOWING IN THE SUN—There is a quiet rhythm to a summer garden. In the early morning, before the heat of the day settles in, there is a peace that invites us to slow down. As we water tender shoots and pull away the weeds, it is a gentle reminder of how God tends to our own lives. Sometimes, the "weeds" of worry or haste try to crowd out our peace. But just as the sun warms the earth, God's grace is poured out to help us grow. This season, let us take time to pause, reflect, and soak in the "Sonlight". *"Let all that you do be done in love."* – 1 Corinthians 16:14 (Author Unknown)

QUICK & EASY REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

What to do with your July cucumber bonanza... here is an easy recipe; no canning, no fuss, and only a little mess.

Serving—2 quart jars or 4 pints. Cut 6 medium firm cucumbers into spears, slices or chunks. If using pint jars, the spears may need to be cut in half.

In a small stainless or Teflon pot add 1 1/4 cups of white vinegar; 2 Tablespoons of coriander seed, 1 teaspoon of mustard seed, 1/4 teaspoon of red pepper flakes, 2 Tablespoons of sugar and 3 Tablespoons of Kosher salt. Heat and stir until salt and sugar are dissolved. Set heated brine aside and add 2 Cups of cold water.



Peel and half 6 large garlic cloves and prepare 16 small dill sprigs. Stuff clean prepared jars with cucumber, add garlic and dill sprigs into side of jars. Pour brine evenly in the jars. If brine does not cover cucumber entirely, add a bit of water until covered. Refrigerate 24 hours and serve. Will last in fridge for up to a month.

You can also substitute 2.5 to 3 Tablespoons of pickling spice for the individual spices. And you can also add sliced or chunks of onion to the brine. You can also forgo the jars and put pickles in a covered container of any sort.



WATER OF LIFE: WONDERFUL WATER

IN THE WORD

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters" (Genesis 1:6).

OF THE WORD

In the beginning God created everything needed for survival including wonderful water. Water makes dirty things clean. Water quenches our thirst on a hot summer day. Water brings life to the seeds planted for our food and the wood used for our shelter. But this once-perfect creation, and all that is in it, is now fallen because of the lies and deceit of the devil and our own sinful ways. Yet this now fallen creation is being redeemed. Saint Paul writes, *the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God* (Romans 8:19b). Through Jesus' death and resurrection we are made perfect once again. Water gave life to the wood of Jesus' cross and to the paper on which God's Word is printed. Water nourishes the grapes and grains of Holy Communion. Most importantly, the wonderful water of Holy Baptism brings life, new life in Christ.

WALKING WITH MY LORD

All-creating Father, You have redeemed me and all of creation through Your Son's death and resurrection. In this fallen creation, guard and reassure me of the perfected being I am in Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Water of Life. Michael Heckmann, author. 21/28 ©2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN HAPPENINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS — It's getting to be that time again. Before you know it our FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS fundraiser sponsored by Boscov's Department stores will be here. For a \$5 donation to Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch, you receive a shopping pass for 25% off of most items at any Boscov's on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. Purchases can also be made online on that day. Ruth will have tickets for the event.

WISH LIST — You can also contribute to OGT by purchasing selected items from any Boscov's Department store in person or on-line and have them shipped to OGT c/o Christ Memorial Church, 89 Line Rd, Malvern, PA 19355. To access the list on Boscov's Official Site: type "Registry" in the search bar. Type OGT in "Search a Name". The gift list will appear. Click "View Registry" to see the list and shop.

A TIP FROM RUTH — The question: How do you tell if an article of clothing is for a man or a woman?

The answer: button a couple of buttons. Lay the garment on the table. If you slip your left hand into the placket, it is a men's. If you slip your right hand in the placket, it is a woman's.

PACKING FOR LATVIA — All hands were on deck on June 24th to help fill containers that will soon be shipped to Latvia.

THANK YOU FROM REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA. The Recipients of our March 2026 delivery to the Republic of Georgia shared a photo of children receiving the gifts

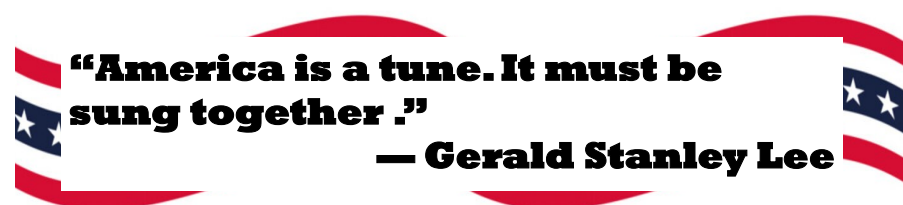
VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE — Our final numbers from the Fall 2025 Matching Fund Drive: Fall Program Donations added up to \$26,459.19 with a match of \$25,750. Thank you to all who generously helped us exceed our goal. In 2025 we gained 84 new volunteers over 2024, a 7.3% increase. Those volunteers packed 4083 boxes, an increase of 570 over 2024, a 16.2% increase. Keep up the good work. In April alone volunteers donated over 534 hours.

KEEP US IN PRAYER — The Lord led us to our Jennersville warehouse and now we need His continued leading as we face the need to leave our current space by September, 2026. Please join us in prayer for His wisdom, provision and guidance. We need a minimum of 6,000 sq ft if renting, 10,000 sq ft if buying, with preference of location being

southeastern Chester County, or possibly another safe neighborhood near the PA-DE state line. It is not necessary to be on a main road. Preferred specifics: rest rooms, a heated facility, access to a break room, office space, drive in donor accessibility, a loading dock suitable for 53' semi-trailers, and parking for at least 12 vehicles. Please contact us if your leads Rob Hall rob.hall.OGT@gmail.com or (484) 459-921. You can also contact Ruth who serves on the Board.

ORLC SPOTLIGHT- 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, every day! If you have someone you would like to put in the spotlight, let us know.





JULY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANIST Julie	LECTORS 7/5 Emily 7/12 Kevin 7/19 Julie 7/26 Steve 8/2 Paul	2 USHERS 7/5 Denny 7/12 Bob 7/19 Loren 7/26 Paul 8/2 Denny	1	2	3	4
5 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 3 10 a.m. Julie 	6	7 Announcement Deadline	8	9	10	11
12 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS 3 10 a.m. Ju:oe Fellowship Sunday	13	14 Announcement Deadline	15 Council 7 p.m. Zoom	16	17	18
19 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 3 10 a.m. Jane Vanvalkenberg 	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Announcement Deadline	22	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
26 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS 3 10 a.m. Worship—Digital	27	28 Announcement Deadline	29	30	31	AUGUST 1
2 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS 3 10 a.m. Jane Vanvalkenberg 	3	4 Announcement Deadline	5	6	7	8

JULY BIBLE READINGS

- 1** Deuteronomy 32:1-4
1 Samuel 28-31
- 2** Psalm 28
2 Samuel 1-3
- 3** Psalm 29
2 Samuel 4-6
- 4** Psalm 30
2 Samuel 7-9
- 5** Psalm 31
2 Samuel 10-12
- 6** Psalm 32
2 Samuel 13-15
- 7** Psalm 33
2 Samuel 16-18
- 8** Psalm 34
2 Samuel 19-21
- 9** Psalm 35
2 Samuel 22-24
- 10** Psalm 36
1 Kings 1-2
- 11** Psalm 37
1 Kings 3-6
- 12** Psalm 38
1 Kings 7-8
- 13** Psalm 39
1 Kings 9-11
- 14** Psalm 40
1 Kings 12-14
- 15** Psalm 41
1 Kings 15-17
- 16** Psalm 42
1 Kings 18-20



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

- 17** Psalm 43
1 Kings 21-22
- 18** Psalm 44
2 Kings 1-3
- 19** Psalm 45
2 Kings 4-6
- 20** Psalm 46
2 Kings 7-9
- 21** Psalm 47
2 Kings 10-12
- 22** Psalm 48
2 Kings 13-15
- 23** Psalm 49
2 Kings 16-18
- 24** Psalm 50
2 Kings 19-22
- 25** Psalm 51
2 Kings 23-25
- 26** Psalm 52
1 Chronicles 1-5
- 27** Psalm 53
1 Chronicles 6-10
- 28** Psalm 54
1 Chronicles 11-15
- 29** Psalm 55
1 Chronicles 16-20
- 30** Psalm 56
1 Chronicles 21-25
- 31** Deuteronomy 32:1-4
1 Chronicles 26-29

