REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
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9/26

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Go Disciple All Nations

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives

2026

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER
A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church
Volume XXXVI, Issue IX

Dear Friends in Christ,

School starts again and the calendar fills fast. Backpacks get heavier, sports schedules multiply, and the quiet of summer disappears almost overnight. It is easy, in all of that noise, to treat church the same way we treat every other activity on the list: something we fit in when we can, or something we skip when the week has already asked too much of us.

That's a real temptation. The Law of God is clear enough about it. The Third Commandment still stands: remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. When the calendar squeezes worship to the margins, we are not merely rearranging priorities. We're slowly training our hearts to believe that we can manage the week without the gifts Christ has promised to give us there.

Yet the Gospel does not answer that temptation with a heavier load of "shoulds." It answers with a different kind of call. The same Lord who places children in classrooms and parents in the work of raising them also places Himself in the Word and at the Table. He does not wait for us to arrive with a perfect week or a settled schedule. He simply says, "Come." He does not ask us to bring our best effort at balancing everything. He brings His body and blood, His forgiveness, His own presence.

School is vocation. Teaching is vocation. Parenting is vocation. All of it is holy work because the One who called us in Baptism has set us in those places to love our neighbor. But vocation runs on the fuel of the Gospel, not on our own resolve. Without the regular hearing of the Word that kills and makes alive, without the Absolution that speaks forgiveness into the week's failures, without the Supper that puts Christ's own life into us, the work of school and home begins to feel like a weight we carry alone. That is not how the Lord intends it.

So this September, the invitation is simple. Come to church not because you have finally gotten the family schedule under control, but because the Lord has not stopped giving what you need. Bring the tired and fussy children. Bring the

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

SEPTEMBER

Chairs: Ronda Hunt: 320-235-1621
Melanie Schultz: 320-221-2597

Rob & Jan Baker
Jon & Kaitlin Barber
Myron & Myra Behm
David & Susan Chase
Ron & Dee Erpelding
Renae Giinthir
Jim & Marcia Gilman
Ronda Hunt
Ron & Colleen Kassel
Glen Lotthammer
Larry & Helga Miller
Matt & Jodie Nelson
Anita Petersen
Matthew & Jane Reich
Pastor Tim & Char Renstrom
Steve & Melanie Schultz
Todd & Kim Swartz
Troy Travis
Marilyn Worke

OCTOBER

Chairs: Bethany Hebrink: 320-441-8611
Joanna Jerzak: 507-829-7616

Jerome & Kristine Bengtson
Pamela Borcherdt
Julie Bush
Mike Christensen
Pastor Craig & Paula Donofrio
Sergio & Kelly Fernandez
Tyler & Michelle Hanson
Josh & Bethany Hebrink
Brian Heveron
Corey & Joanna Jerzak
Carmelina Johannes
Jeff & Darla Kimpling
Paul & Deb Krueger
Jerry & Pam Kuhlman
Ray & Linda Landin
Ron & Diane Minke
Gary & Nila Mogard
Jennifer Rasanen
Cindy Rodriguez
Christy Ruegge
Dan & Michelle Schanus
Amy Uken

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GO TO CAMP! Just because summer is over, doesn't mean camp is over! There are still some opportunities available for you this fall. Remember, Redeemer offers camperships for our campers. Just contact Anna for a form to fill out. Lutheran Island Camp is beautiful in the fall. Check out these awesome opportunities:

PARENT & CHILD HORSE WEEKENDS: September 11-13th and/or 18-20th. Cost is $250 per person. The weekend follows a schedule similar to our popular summer horse camps, giving families the opportunity to enjoy horseback riding, horsemanship instruction, trail rides, chapel, campfires, games, and plenty of time to simply be together. This weekend is a wonderful way to share the joy of camp with your child. **Children must be at least 8 years old to participate.**

FALL ADVENTURE: October 16-18th. Cost is $180 per person. Spend the weekend making friends, enjoying favorite camp activities, gathering for chapel and campfires, and experiencing the beauty of the Island in the fall. It's a chance to slow down, reconnect, and spend a few more days growing in faith while enjoying the fun and community of camp. Fall Adventure Camp is a wonderful way to experience Lutheran Island Camp in a different season and make a few more camp memories before winter arrives.

MAPLEWOOD HORSE ADVENTURE: October 16-18th. Cost is $300 per person. This retreat is for adults ages 18 and older. We'll spend the weekend enjoying scenic rides through Maplewood State Park, where we hope to catch Minnesota's fall colors at their peak. The horses will meet us at Maplewood on Saturday, allowing us to enjoy a full day on the trails before returning to Lutheran Island Camp each evening. Along with horseback riding, there will be time for fellowship, campfires, devotions, and quiet moments to enjoy God's creation during one of the most beautiful seasons of the year.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP OUT, BUT JUST NOT SURE HOW? Go to their website, click on the "More" tab, then the "Donate" tab, then on the "Amazon Wish List" tab. Pick out an item to buy and donate it to camp -- EASY!!!

unfinished homework still rattling around in your head. Bring the week that already feels behind. The Lord who sat among the teachers in the temple still sits among us in His Word. The Lord who fed the five thousand still feeds His people with His body and blood. He does not ask you to bring a perfect week. He simply says, "I forgive you. I go with you."

That is enough for September. It is enough for the whole school week. And it is enough for every ordinary Monday that follows.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Craig

PRESCHOOL

Our first day of school is Wednesday September 2nd, and we are so excited to get out on our new updated playground! We are starting the year with 18 preschoolers and we have added a new staff member as well. Markeysa Lewis will start with us as soon as we can get her training done.

The preschool would like to collect some plastic koolaid tubs, plastic crystal light containers and frosting tubs. The kids use these empty containers to collect offerings at chapel. We think it is very important for them to learn to give and help others, both locally and farther away.

On another note, we have several families this year that are currently wait- listed for state/federal scholarships to send their preschooler to school. They have chosen to send their kids to us anyway and are applying to Redeemers scholarship to help with tuition costs. We ask that you come along side us and pray for all of our families, but especially for those in need. If you would like to help financially you can donate directly to the preschool scholarship fund or when you purchase scrip cards, mark the top for preschool scholarships. We are all so grateful for all the help and support from all of you.

Gods blessings
Michelle and Gretchen

A Fresh Start

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Going back to school can bring many different feelings. Some kids may be excited to see their friends and learn new things. Others may feel nervous about new teachers, harder classes, or making friends. Parents may also feel the pressure of busy schedules, homework, activities, and trying to keep everyone organized.

The good news is that you do not have to face a new school year alone. God is with you every step of the way. He cares about your worries, your friendships, your choices, and even the small things that happen during our day.

Proverbs 3:5 reminds us to trust God instead of thinking you have to figure everything out on your own. When school feels difficult, you can pray. When you are nervous, you can remember that God is near. When you have a chance to help someone else, you can show God's love through your words and actions.

As a family, you can make this school year about more than grades and activities. You can encourage each other, pray for each other, and look for ways to be kind. You can remind one another that their worth does not come from test scores, popularity, sports, or achievements. Our identity is in Christ alone.

Dear God, thank You for being with us as we begin a new school year. Help us trust You when we feel nervous or overwhelmed. Give us wisdom in our choices, courage when things are difficult, and kindness toward the people around us. Help our family encourage and support one another. May our words and actions show Your love at school, at home, and wherever we go. Amen.

See ya in worship!
Anna

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13TH
Worship will go back to 8:00 and 10:30 am with Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:15.

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Aug 2	132	104		-	-	
Aug 9	123	114		-	-	
Aug 16	120	105		-	-	
Aug 23	123	106		-	-	
Aug 30						
TOTALS	498	429		-	-	22

Out by Release: Amiah (Akerson) Bramwell
Out by Death: Josephine Werder

SCHOOL IS READY TO START SO YOU NEED TO MAKE SOME ROOM IN YOUR CLOSET FOR YOUR NEW SHOES!! Don't throw the ones you no longer want or don't fit into anymore, bring them to church and put in the shoe collection box found in the narthex to be donated to Lutheran Island Camp. We will take any type of shoe except **NO FLIP FLOPS**. Let's see if we can fill the box to overflowing!

ROAD TO RECOVERY GROUP Are you struggling with addiction? You're not alone. Or maybe you know of someone that would benefit from this group. If interested in joining, please contact Penny at (320) 220-2585. All are welcome!

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS! Friendship Club is a new way for our church family to get together for fun and fellowship, and we're looking for ideas for future activities. Is there somewhere you'd like to go or something you'd like to do as a group? It could be lunch at a local restaurant, a tour, a game night, a ballgame, a craft, or just about anything else. If you have an idea, we'd love to hear it! Please share your suggestions with Sharon Skaro or Stacy Pollock. We also hope you'll join us at one of our upcoming Friendship Club events!

If you do not receive calls or texts from Redeemer on events that are coming up or that have occurred, it means we didn't receive an information card from you. Cards are available in the narthex or church office, just fill out and return to the church office. This will ensure you receive updates and important information as events occur.

FALL WREATH CRAFTING EVENT

Come Get Crafty This Fall!

Join us on **Saturday, September 19th at 9:00 a.m.** at the home of **Deb Krueger** for a fun morning of making beautiful Fall wreaths!

There is **no cost** to attend, and all supplies will be provided. If you have a favorite wreath form or crafting supplies you would prefer to use, you are welcome to bring your own.

Whether you're an experienced crafter or just want to enjoy some fellowship and creativity, we'd love to have you join us!

Please sign up at the church office so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS! September collections will be previously viewed DVD's (comedy and action), paperback novels, board games, electronic games, handheld games, car games, crossword and word find books, and journals. Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.

REDEEMER WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB Our next book will be *"Raising Hare"* by Chloe Dalton. We will meet on October 3rd at 9am. Feel free to purchase on your own or we will be getting another book club kit from the library sometime the first week of September. Books will be available for checkout from the church office if you are interested in joining us on the 3rd or prefer just to read on your own. Contact Deb K. or Briana J. with any questions. Hope to see you there!

SEPTEMBER GIFT CARDS! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the narthex! The deadline for this month is Monday, September 14th.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to www.ForYouRadio.org to listen.

†† SEPTEMBER 2026 ††

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES
Sept 6 **9:00 AM** **Communion**	Bill Paterson	Aspen Krakow
Sept 13 **8:00 AM** **10:30 AM**	Ted Wurm Ron Jaspersen	Amyah Hebrink Elise Rezenecheck
Sept 20 **8:00 AM** **Communion** **10:30 AM**	Matt Akerson Brandon Kopacek	Eli Forst Oliver Berghuis
Sept 27 **8:00 AM** **10:30 AM**	Mark Sellmann Jeff Pitt	Finley Hebrink Kian Pitt
USHERS (*Head Usher) **8:00 *Nathan Nielsen,** Margaret Nielsen, Carol Jackson **10:30 *Gary Hillenbrand,** Mary Hillenbrand		**LIBRARY** Anita Petersen

REDEEMER AUDIO/VIDEO MEDIA TEAM is seeking new members. Are you interested in learning how to run the PA, slides, and video streaming systems? We sure could use your help! Don't be intimidated by all the knobs and screens; it's easier than it looks. Please sign up on the sheet on the church office window.

REDEEMER'S MEN'S GROUP The Redeemer Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, September 29th at 6 pm. Come join us!

THE LWML GROUP

At our October 13th meeting we will be packing care boxes for College Students. If you have someone you'd like us to send a box to, please contact myself or the church office. Also, October 18th will be LWML Sunday. Remember any size Mite Offering helps support Mission Grants.

Thank you!
Brooke Sellmann, Chair

RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 13! This will be the first day of Sunday School for all ages, Preschool to 12th Grade. We will also have Bible and Catechism presentation at the 10:30 service. Parents, be watching for a letter in the mail! AND...there will be a family meal and a church family event after the 10:30 service. Come and enjoy a picnic meal with us as well as some fun for the kids!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND YOUTH FORMS

This year Sunday School Registration forms can be found on our church website. Youth Code of Conduct and Medical and Travel Release forms are also on our website as well. Visit www.redeemerwillmar.org, and go to the ministries tab to find the forms. Please print them, fill them out, and return them to the church office or bring them on the first day Sunday School! (Youth forms are for grades 6-12, and need to be filled out yearly.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED! We have several openings for Sunday School teachers this year. Please prayerfully consider sharing your faith with the children and youth of Redeemer this year! Class sizes will be smaller this year as we are dividing the age groups differently. The following ages are where teachers are needed! See Anna with any questions, or if you want to check out what the lessons are like!

Preschool, ages 3 and 4 - 2 teachers needed
Kindergarten and Grade 1 - 2 teachers needed
Grades 4 and 5 - 1 teacher needed
Grades 6-12 - 1 or 2 teachers needed

JOY BELLS NEED YOU! We have several openings in our handbell choir this year and we would love to have you join us! No experience? That's ok! We would love to teach you! We start rehearsals on **September 9th at at 5:30 p.m. in the balcony.** If you are instead, please reach out to Anna!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! If you like to sing, laugh, and share God's Word through vocal music, then choir is for you! No experience necessary-we have strong leaders in each section that are happy to help you out! **Rehearsals start on September 23 at 7:00.m. in the balcony.** If you are interested, please reach out to Anna!

REDISCOVERING MISSION: A MISSION FESTIVAL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH | WILLMAR, MN

GUEST SPEAKER & PREACHER:

REV. LORENZO MURRONE

Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Rome, Italy

DATE & TIME:
SEPTEMBER 24th, 2026

6:00 PM | EVENING PRAYER Pastor Murrone will preach.

6:30 PM | SUPPER & PRESENTATION
Hear Rev. Murrone on the work of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Italy.