



## Christ the Redeemer

Lutheran Church

2550 East 71st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74136

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### Having a Life Filled With Prayer

#### See to Please

Shift your prayer life from "Please, God" to Please God." Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God's pleasure. --Homiletics

#### A Powerful Weapon

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayer-less work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. --Samuel Chadwick

#### A Word From Matthew Henry

Seventeenth-century Bible scholar Matthew Henry had great insight into God's will when he proclaimed, "When God intends great mercies for His people, He first of all sets them a'praying."

Did you ever consider that when you feel the urge to engage in deep meaningful prayer, it might be God's preparation for "great mercies"?

#### Hard Faith

According to author Stephen King, "What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."

Similarly, what separates the doubt-filled Christian from the Christian in good spiritual health is hard faith, working and praying diligently - and often - to build one's faith.

#### Faith and Health

Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School made a study of the effect praying can have upon those who pray. He discovered those who pray 10 to 20 minutes daily can lower their blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and metabolic rates. Prayer can work wonders. --Proclaim, Nov. 1, 1998

#### Prayer Helps

A man was seen praying in a church and was approached by a fairly officious person in clerical garb. Said this person: "May I help you?" The response came clearly, "No thank you. I am being helped!" -- Anonymous



THE  
POWER  
OF PRAYER

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TULSA, OKLA.  
PERMIT NO. 176



# The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

August 2019

Rev. Scott Burmeister  
Pastor

Suzanne Watt  
Dir. of Christian Education

Nikki Witt  
ECC Director

Connie Phillips  
Office Secretary

Mary Jane Landin  
Business Administrator

Angel Harris  
Communications Adm.

Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

Craig Amendt  
Choir Director

Floyd Lemons  
Property Manager

Sunday Worship:  
8:15 & 10:45 AM.  
Sunday School/Bible  
Classes  
9:30 AM

PHONE: 918/492-6451  
Web: [www.ctrtulsa.org](http://www.ctrtulsa.org)  
Email:  
[christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org)

Early Childhood Center  
Phone: 918-492-1416



join us as we celebrate

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

AUGUST 25, 2019 • 8:15 & 10:45 AM WORSHIP  
9:30 AM BREAKFAST

STEPPING STONES BOOKS • BACKPACK BLESSING AT WORSHIP • WEAR YOUR  
SCHOOL SHIRT • SIGN UP FOR NEW FALL EDUCATION CLASSES

## Save the Date October 4-6, 2019



Joy- Jr High District  
Youth Gathering for  
6th-8th grade  
students at Camp  
Lutherhoma

MEN'S SMALL GROUP - WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB - ADULT CLASSES

Resumes on September 4

CTR-U

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
FOR ALL AGES

5:30-6:30 & 7:00-8:00 PM

DINNER FROM 6:00-7:00 PM



Join Us!

YOUTH SMALL GROUP - CONFIRMATION - FAITH FRIENDS

Carinna Corbett and  
Alex Siksa  
will be united in marriage on August 10.

Anyone wishing to  
send a gift or card can  
do so to the following  
address:  
205 Deere Creek Dr.  
Genoa, IL 60135

Carinna and Alex are  
registered at WalMart,  
Target and Bed Bath &  
Beyond.







**CHRIST THE REDEEMER  
YOUTH MINISTRY**  
**Jr. High (6-8th graders)**  
**Sr. High (9-12th graders)**

<http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/>



*"8 But 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." Acts 1:8*

DCE Suzanne Watt

# acolyte

ministry

Students entering 3rd-8th grade are invited to be a part of CTR's acolyte ministry. Acolyte's are a part of the worship service in helping light the candles on the altar to remind us that Jesus is the light of the word. On occasion an acolyte may also be asked to serve as a crucifer and carry in the processional cross.

All students in this age group are invited to a training on Sunday, August 11 from 9:30-10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

## 6th-8th Grade Ministry

Come hang out with your friends for small group time, fellowship and fun!

Looking for families to host a night, contact DCE Suzanne!

Mark your calendars for these dates:

August 18  
September 15  
November 17  
December 15

3:00-5:00 PM

## HIGH SCHOOL 9TH-12TH GRADE MINISTRY

### FALL SMALL GROUPS

Join all your CTR friends for fun, fellowship and Bible study each month. Sign up with DCE Suzanne to host.

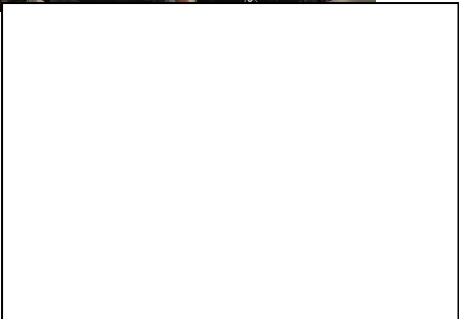
August 11  
September 8  
November 10  
3:00-5:00 PM

### SIGN UP TO BE A JOY HIGH SCHOOL LEADER

Applications now available!

### C.L.A.S.S. STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

September 26-29 in Seward, NE  
Leaving at 4:30 PM on the 26th



Here are a few pictures of our adventures at the 2019 National LCMS Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. Our group of 17 youth and 5 adults had an amazing time with the other 23,000 people in attendance! God is good!





Confession

Article VIII: What the Church Is

1] Although the Church properly is the congregation of saints and true believers, nevertheless, since in this life many hypocrites and evil persons are mingled therewith, it is lawful to use Sacraments administered by evil men, according to the saying of Christ: The Scribes and 2] the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, etc. Matthew 23, 2. Both the Sacraments and Word are effectual by reason of the institution and commandment of Christ, notwithstanding they be administered by evil men.

3] They condemn the Donatists, and such like, who denied it to be lawful to use the ministry of evil men in the Church, and who thought the ministry of evil men to be unprofitable and of none effect.

Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!

Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>

The private group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/>  
For the Twitter account use: @PastorBe\_CTR

To join the private group, click Join Group in the top right hand corner of the page or contact James Morgan via e-mail: [communications@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:communications@ctrtulsa.org)

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please add these individuals to your church directory or change the information that is currently printed.



Roger & Nancy Witte  
12650 E 100th St. N. Apt. 104  
Owasso, OK 74055

Jon & Sherry Weaver (Jennifer)  
8601 S Mingo Rd. Apt. 2102  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
[2sherryweaver@gmail.com](mailto:2sherryweaver@gmail.com)

Stacie & Ainsley McFarlin  
3808 E 144th St. S  
Bixby, OK 74008

Daily Bible Reading

**Week 83**  
Monday - John 15:1-16:33  
Tuesday - John 17:1-26  
Wednesday - John 18:1-19:42  
Thursday - John 20:1-21:25  
Friday - Acts 1:1-26  
Saturday - Acts 2:1-47

**Week 84**  
Monday - Acts 3:1-4:37  
Tuesday - Acts 5:1-42  
Wednesday - Acts 6:1-8:40  
Thursday - Acts 9:1-43  
Friday - Acts 10:1-11:30  
Saturday - Acts 12:1-25

**Week 85**  
Monday - Acts 13:1-14:28  
Tuesday - Acts 15:1-35  
Wednesday - Acts 15:36-16:40  
Thursday - Acts 17:1-18:23  
Friday - Acts 18:24-21:16  
Saturday - Acts 21:17-23:35

**Week 86**  
Monday - Acts 24:1-26:32  
Tuesday - Acts 27:1-28:31  
Wednesday - Romans 1:1-2:29  
Thursday - Romans 3:1-4:25  
Friday - Romans 5:1-21  
Saturday - Romans 6:1-23

**Week 87**  
Monday - Romans 7:1-25  
Tuesday - Romans 8:1-39  
Wednesday - Romans 9:1-11:36  
Thursday - Romans 12:1-21  
Friday - Romans 13:1-14:23  
Saturday - Romans 15:1-16:27

**Week 88**  
Monday - 1 Corinthians 1:1-2:16  
Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 2:1-4:21  
Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:20  
Thursday - 1 Corinthians 7:1-40  
Friday - 1 Corinthians 8:1-9:27  
Saturday - 1 Corinthians 10:1-33

**Week 89**  
Monday - 1 Corinthians 11:1-12:31  
Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 13:1-14:40  
Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 15:1-58  
Thursday - 1 Corinthians 16:1-24  
Friday - 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:17  
Saturday - 2 Corinthians 3:1-4:18

What brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack, and at times even a home???

QUILTS



HOW CAN YOU HELP??

We need help in purchasing the fabric to make the quilt tops. Each quilt costs approximately \$25 to make. Donations marked "LWML quilts" can be dropped in the mite box or put in the offering plate.

Prayers for our quilt program are needed plus prayers for the recipients of our quilts. These quilts are sent all over the United States as well as the world!



Cut Squares      Tie Quilts  
Sew Squares      Join us !!  
We would appreciate your help!

The quilters meet very Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.

Faithful Measures

For the Month of May	2018	2019
Total Worship Attendance .....	980	843
Weekly Average.....	245	211
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	289	190
Weekly Average .....	72	48
May Giving .....	\$68,121	\$62,150
Monthly Budget .....	\$65,226	\$63,800
Year to Date Giving .....	\$340,091	\$350,386
Year to Date Budget .....	\$342,438	\$334,950
YTD Expenses.....	\$351,099	\$318,857

For the Month of June	2018	2019
Total Worship Attendance .....	946	1099
Weekly Average.....	237	220
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	247	370
Weekly Average .....	62	74
June Giving .....	\$82,590	\$76,026
Monthly Budget .....	\$65,226	\$79,750
Year to Date Giving .....	\$422,681	\$426,412
Year to Date Budget .....	\$434,461	\$414,699
YTD Expenses.....	\$428,306	\$392,117

Building Fund Contribution:

May receipts: \$6,108.50  
June receipts: \$38,152.50  
Balance: \$1,090,918.21

DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



**MOST Ministries** collects eyeglasses and distributes them to people all over the world. A collection box is located at the collection center. For more information go to [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org).

**PAPER & OTHER RECYCLING:** You can recycle all your mail/newspapers, etc. as well as cardboard, metal cans and plastic containers (no glass items) in the collection bin in the southeast corner of the parking lot.

**SOUTH TULSA COMMUNITY HOUSE** can use empty egg cartons, prescription bottles and plastic and/or paper bags. These can be placed in the grocery cart at the south entrance with any food donations as well.

Altar Flowers



The sign up chart is available at the information center. Write your name on the date and share the special reason for the flowers. Simply drop your \$50 check (put ALTAR FLOWERS on the memo line) in the offering plate the week before or that Sunday! You may take the arrangement home following the late service.

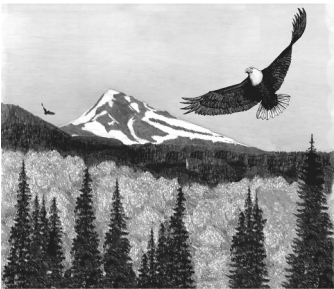
- 4: by Mark Williams
- 4: by John and Sally Neas in celebration of Steve and Liz's birthdays
- 4: by Greg and Deena Braun in celebration of their anniversary
- 11: by Mark and Ann Holt in celebration of JC and Christeline's birthday
- 11: by Wanda Radke in memory of Roy's birthday
- 18: by Deb Drain in thanksgiving for all her siblings who have birthdays and anniversaries this month
- 18:
- 25: by Sherry Weaver in honor of Linda Soday
- 25: by James and Rachel Morgan in celebration of their children's birthdays



Renewable Energy

Keep close to nature's heart ... break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

--John Muir





Rev. Green found an interest in poetry and hymnody relatively late in life, springing from a long correspondence and friendship with the poet Fallon Webb. Although Green began writing poetry as early as 1944, he did not write his first hymn until 1967 when he was asked to join a committee planning a hymnal supplement to *The Methodist Hymn Book*. Many of Green's hymns show a deep concern with social issues and the role of the Church in attending to the needs of body and soul of "the least of these." "The Church of Christ in Every Age," a hymn which is challenging, powerful and perhaps even a bit provocative, was written in 1969, a time of great social unrest and political upheaval. The text calls for the Church to embody the teachings of Christ in a life of service to those in need. The mission of the Church is captured in the final stanza: "We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord" and to "spread Christ's liberating Word."

A particularly fine recording of “The Church of Christ in Every Age” by organist Tom Trenney and the choir and congregation of First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, may be found on YouTube. I look forward to singing this hymn with all of you, particularly on Reformation Sunday when we will be supported in our singing by the addition of a brass quartet and timpani.



## Cornerstone 4



## Cornerstone 13







So, all the Inspectors to be involved and two supervisors were called to New York City for a two-week crash course in how to survey without monuments. We learned to “shoot” the sun and Polaris to assure the tower site was correct. To add another dimension to our training, we had hours of schooling in the dark due to the infamous New York City blackout. It really was dark in the “Big Apple”. Fortunately, we all survived.

The Rocky Mountains are well named. They are indeed rocky. Digging the 12 to 20 -foot square holes for the tower foundations was easily done with conventional back-hoes up to New Mexico. From there on, a lot of blasting was required. Saving time and effort is always a positive thing. Fortunately, the tower contractor found a special blasting crew that could blast roughly square holes. Normally, blasting results in roughly round holes which require more digging and back filling. One tower site was so hard to get to, that all personnel and materials were flown in by helicopter.

After the microwave line reached the west coast, I thought “good”, no more 300-foot towers to climb. Wrong! Each communication transmission system such as wires on telephone poles, wires underground, ocean cable, microwave, fiber optics and satellite channels have a portion of the transmission available for the exclusive use of the military. They insisted the antennas be “hardened” - meaning armored against sabotage or vandalism.

I thought the inspectors could handle all the climbing. Wrong again! I had to fill in for the inspector that normally would have handled the 300-foot tower on top of Owl Head Mountain in the Mojave Desert. What made this tower unique, was its closeness to China Lake – a military installation with landing strips where new and experimental planes were tested. Jet fighters were no problem, because by the time we heard them they were past us. The gigantic cargo planes were the problem. Their powerful engines could be heard a long way off and it seemingly took “forever” for them to pass the tower. Of course, all work stopped until we were sure they were not a threat. Again, I survived.

After the antenna hardening job was finished, we inspected a microwave system connecting all the missile sites surrounding the Los Angeles area. The next order of business was inspecting in Mexico. Previously, the Bell System purchased American made products only. Government agencies insisted we also purchase foreign made material as a cost saving plan.

Americans traveling in Mexico as tourists was no problem. Americans legally working in Mexico is a problem. This requires a work permit from the Mexican Bureau of Immigration. Mexican government employees are not well paid. They are expected to supplement their incomes with “gratuities” (mordido) for their services. From the American point of view, this is bribery. Since bribes are not a voucherable item and I couldn't afford them, we had problems because occasionally all permits were voided and we had to reapply.

Over the years, the U.S. Government asked the Bell System to assist or manage new federal programs. As I mentioned before, one of the Nike Missile plants was in the Los Angeles area. We were asked to inspect enough missiles to protect the island of Japan. The second missile program I worked on was “Star Wars”.



Outdoor Fun...  
Donuts for Dads...  
4th of July...  
There's always something going on at ECC!!



Nikki Witt, Director



Can God Count?

The boy counted everything. Socks in his drawer, peas on his plate, cars on the highway. He loved numbers. He loved to count.

One day he asked his father, "Daddy, can God count?"  
His father said, "Yes, son, God can count."  
"What does he count?"  
"He counts the hairs on our heads."  
"Every hair?" the son asked.  
"Yes, every hair," the father answered.

The son asked, "What else does God count?"  
"When we get sad, or hurt, and we cry, God counts our tears."  
"Every tear?" the son asked.  
"Yes, every tear," the father answered.

The son thought a minute. Then he asked, "Is there anything God doesn't count?"  
"Yes, there is one thing God does not count."  
The son asked, "What does he not count?"

The father took his son's hand and led him down the hall. He pointed to the family's crucifix that hung on the wall. The father said to his son, "On the day Jesus died, God stopped counting our sins. He added them all up and gave them to Jesus. He will never count them again."  
"Every sin?" the son asked.  
"Yes, every single one," the father answered.



CHRISTMAS IN BRANSON  
Immanuel Lutheran Travelers -  
Nov. 6-8

This three day/two night stay costs \$320 per person and includes two nights in an inn with hot breakfasts, bus fare, three lunches and two evening meals as well as all shows. The agenda includes Shepherd's Christmas Carol Theater, Oak Ridge Boys, Rocky Mountain Christmas (John Denver), Dolly Parton Stampede, All Hands On Deck and shopping.

Contact Judy Newman,  
918-254-6238, or Barbara Sabourin 918-437-4405, for more details.  
\$100 per person will reserve your seat.



"You can do what I cannot do.  
I can do what you cannot do.  
Together, we can do great things."  
--Mother Teresa

Amazon Smile!



Help support ECC  
by shopping on  
Amazon Smile.  
Simply select  
Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church  
and .5% of your purchase will be  
given back to the ECC.

DON'T TRASH THOSE COUPONS!



Military personnel and their families stationed at major overseas bases in Europe and Asia can use those manufacturer's coupons up to six months after they have expired. A box marked "Coupons for the Troops" is located at the south entrance.





# Seminary News

To friends dearly loved by the Brakhages and by our Lord Jesus Christ:

By the time this newsletter makes it to you, we will be back in St. Louis, beginning our 4<sup>th</sup> (and final!) year of Seminary. Our new address is at the bottom of this letter if you are the kind who writes, but our phone numbers and email addresses won't change. We always love hearing updates from your end, too.

As I write this, our family is preparing for a lot of "new." New school year. New apartment. New baby. Suzy, Graham and I have been blessed to welcome a new baby boy to our family. He is due around Thanksgiving. Suzy has been doing an excellent job caring for the new baby 24/7 while still taking care of her other boys. Graham has been learning about what it means to be a brother and have a brother, though I think it will take a few more months for it all to sink in. Suzy's family is on a boy streak. Our new baby will make six boy cousins in a row (which means lots of great hand-me-downs!)

We are thankful that in the midst of so much "new," this upcoming school year will also give us the chance to appreciate some touchstones of familiarity. We will be returning to live on the Seminary campus, just a few buildings away from the apartment we left 12 months ago. (Again, our new address is below!) Living on campus means access to a great community, within walking distance of parks, the zoo, and a grocery store that gives out free cookies to kids! It also means Suzy will be able to continue helping Seminary kids with their speech and providing in-home services to other students' families. Additionally, Suzy will be returning to her therapy job in St. Louis, providing after school speech therapy for kids in the Rockwood School District. And we'll be able to rejoin our St. Louis church home – Ascension in St. Louis Hills – for another year of life together as a family of faith.

As we return to Ascension, I will join the staff as a part-time Pastoral Assistant. I will preach regularly, lead Bible studies and coordinate the congregation's small group ministry. The duties go beyond what is expected by a Seminary fieldwork student, and accordingly, this is a paid position. I am really looking forward to remaining active in the life of a congregation. It was going to be a hard transition to go from full-time, hands-on ministry experience on vicarage to being in the classroom 100% of the time again. This position will allow me to keep my foot in real-world ministry while finishing up my Seminary classes. And our whole family is grateful that it will allow for an even deeper connection to a church we love, where Graham was baptized, and where our new baby will likely be baptized, too.

The last month of vicarage was wild. July was already a busy month with the National Youth Gathering and the LCMS Synodical Convention. But in Edmond, we added in a week of Vacation Bible School and a pastoral installation. In July, we also welcomed the new vicar and his wife, Matt & Shannon Lorenz. The new vicar and I overlapped for 3 weeks, which meant double the vicar manpower for VBS! It also allowed us the opportunity to get up to speed with a lot of the programs and lingo that you need to be aware of when you're stepping into a staff role at a new congregation. I am excited for Matt and Shannon to have the same experience with a warm, loving congregation that Suzy, Graham and I had.

Our VBS was loads of fun. Suzy helped as a Pre-K crew leader and I led preschool music. Our theme this year was "Roar" and kids learned "Life is wild; God is good." I thought the music for this year's VBS was of particularly good quality. We had been listening to the songs at home ever since Suzy returned from taking Graham to VBS at Nana's house in Kansas in June where they did the same program. Graham is now requesting VBS songs whenever we're at home or in the car.



Coming to the end of vicarage has given me a chance to reflect on the things that made a difference in Edmond being such a great place for us to spend the past year. I think a lot of them are takeaways that I'll be able to bring with me into ministry wherever we land next (and maybe they would be helpful to you, too.)

1.) Welcome people. Introduce yourself. Don't worry if you may have met them before or if they might be long-time church members you've just never met. You can always respond with, "Then, I'm sorry it's taken me this long to say hello." Be friendly and start a conversation that eventually might go deeper than just "Hi, how are you?" Suzy and I have been immeasurably blessed by the people who took time to get to know us this year, even when they knew we'd be leaving in a year. It was always a blessing to know you'd be arriving at church and find someone eager to have a meaningful interaction with you.

2.) Make things easy. Walking into a new church is hard enough. What can we do as hosts to make people more comfortable with the confusion of being in a new place? I recently visited a church where I made it to the parking lot, but then had no idea which door I was supposed to go in. If someone from the church had offered to point me to the right door, it would have saved some needless embarrassment. Once inside, can people find the bathrooms? Classrooms? Sanctuary? Coffee? If they can't, offer to walk with them. In worship, do they know where to sit? When to stand? Which way to look? What to sing? Even the somewhat familiar may appreciate a friendly face who offers to sit with them and be their ambassador to worship in a new place.

3.) Make connections. Engage in conversations that encourage people to share details that they may have in common with others (birthplaces, schools, sports teams, hobbies and skills.) Then actively work to connect them with members of the congregation who share those interests, giving them another familiar touchstone in an otherwise unfamiliar place. And when people show an interest in serving, **put them to work**. The only thing more frustrating than not getting the volunteers you need is volunteering to serve and no one ever follows up with you.

It has been fun to learn and grow as a family over vicarage and now we're looking forward to what the final year of Seminary will teach us.

With excitement,  
Joshua

[joshua411@gmail.com](mailto:joshua411@gmail.com)  
(918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile)  
(785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)  
12 Founders Way, Unit B  
St. Louis, MO 63105



Imagine a closet. It is dimly lit and is far from comfortable. You find that your eyes are adjusting to the dimly lit room and you are able to see that the shapes that are coming, slowly into view, are people. They are overcome with joy that you are with them. They tell you not to be afraid, that your eyes will get used to it soon enough, and, eventually, you will be able to see very well. They promise that the uncomfortable feeling will pass soon enough as well. You are told that this is all part of the process. Being the trusting soul that you are, you wait, and sure enough, they are right. Your eyes adjust and you can see. What do you see? You see a cramped room that is packed full of people. Their voices are inaudible because everyone is talking at the same time about the same topic, but using a multitude of words and to your ears it is complete confusion. You are told that that too will pass and soon enough you will be able to understand by differentiating the sounds. You can comprehend single words as they are shouted, whispered and spoken; words like Freedom, Liberty, Choice, Religion, Rights, Happiness, just to name a few.

As your eyes continue to adjust to your new surroundings, you can't help but notice that there are closed doors all around. You get your closest neighbor's attention and inquire about those closed doors. You are told that those are other closets and are much more dark than this one and lead into a deeper set of words. Those residing in your closet detest those other doors, and they should never be opened, and never be entered. Reaching out your hand to try the door, you are suddenly slapped and told never to attempt that again. Your eyes and ears continue to adjust to your new surroundings and your new neighbors are starting to grow on you. You come to the conclusion that they do have your best interests at heart. That is when you hear it. It's a voice. It is different from all the other voices in the closet. The origin of this voice is coming from outside the closet. It is coming from above you. Looking up you see it. There is a door in the ceiling.

You scream out above the noise of all the other voices, "Where does that door lead?". In unison and without confusion all of the voices in your closet shout out in one unified breathe, "NO!" Then everything is completely quiet. In the midst of the quiet you hear the voice from above almost like a whisper, "You are in a trap. Knock and the door will be opened unto you."

You reach out your hand to knock on the ceiling door. As you do you feel your neighbors punching, grabbing, clawing, scratching at you. Trying with all their might to keep your fist from the door. The voice from above grows louder in your ears, "Knock and the door will be opened unto you!" With all your might and with all your strength you reach for the door, but you cannot. That's when it happens. You feel a power unlike anything you have ever

known reaching down and taking you by the hand and pulling you up and up and up. With this new found strength and power your hand makes contact with the door and there is a loud knock that shakes the very foundations of creation. The door is flung open and for the first time in your life you see it, light, real light. A light so bright that it illuminates and penetrates any and all darkness. Lifting you up and out of the closet you are finally free. You see him, it is your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has lifted you out of the miry pit, out of the mud and mire (Psalm 40). He sets your feet upon a rock and gives you a firm place to stand. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

It is time for Christians to come out of the closet. Come into the light of God's salvation and know that all of your sins are completely forgiven in Christ. Repent of eyes that adjust to darkness and calls artificial light, true. Knock on the door of salvation by the power of the Holy Spirit and enter into God's marvelous light. His name is Jesus and He is the Christ! Amen.



## Sunday School Offering July - September

Prompt treatment can prevent sudden cardiac death. Many experts agree that CPR training and Automated External Device (AED) implementation is the key to helping save lives from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Often going into SCA is the first time a person realizes that they have an underlying heart condition. Fewer than 10% survive. Using CPR and AED doubles the chance of survival.

Some factors such as working outside in elevated temperatures, or over-exerting oneself during physical activity can cause one's heart rate to accelerate and go into an unstable condition, often leading to cardiac arrest. Many recreation centers have an AED available near activity areas. You can see one of these devices in the narthex of our church.

Our Sunday School offering for this quarter is to help Camp Lutherhoma, our district Lutheran church camp and retreat center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, purchase up to three AED's for strategic locations around camp.

By having them available, Camp Lutherhoma is allowing staff, volunteers, and adult attendees to increase their safety by ensuring that something can be done immediately if a cardiac incident were to take place. Please give generously.





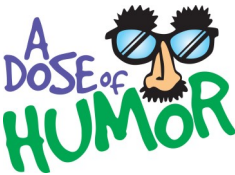
# The Joke Corner...

Shakespeare: "I've written a good play, but I think the title is too long."  
Friend: "What is the title?"  
Shakespeare: "I call it, *Julius, Grab the Girl Quickly Before She Gets Away.*"  
Friend: "Why not just call it *Julius Caesar?*"

Q: "Do you file your nails?"  
A: "No, I just cut them off and throw them away."  
  
Q: "Why did the boy name his rooster *Robinson?*"  
A: "Because it *Crusoe.*"

Success is relative - the more success, the more relatives!

The reason money is called "cold cash" is because we don't keep it long enough to get it warm.



**CTR FRIENDS** will meet for lunch on August 11 at the Metro Diner (Tulsa Hills- 7474 S Olympia Ave.).

**BUNKO** will meet on August 13 at 7:00.

**CONNECT NIGHT** is August 24. Location to be determined.

**EDUCATION SUNDAY** is August 25. Check out the front cover and watch the bulletin for further details.

**OWLS** will meet on August 29 at 11:30 at Incredible Pizza. Their program will include a presentation from Johnny Barfield's grandson, Lt. Kyle Baker, a criminal investigator for the Rogers County Sheriff's Office. He overseas seven investigators and has a Master's Degree in Criminal Investigation and 12 years experience. His topic will include scams and the new open carry law. There is signup sheet.



Kevin Jirrels says "Happy 4th" to his CTR family!



Floral Haven representatives were the speakers at the June OWLS program. Their presentation was enjoyed by all.



*Congratulations and God's richest blessings to all of our couples as they celebrate their wedding anniversary!*

Greg & Deena Braun	August 1	38 yrs
Rob & Teena Newton	August 1	38 yrs
James & Rachel Morgan	August 2	16 yrs
David & Sarah Ross	August 4	18 yrs
Tracy & Sean Dickson	August 5	23 yrs
Gerald Coakley & Micky Flasch	August 6	3 yrs
Ken & Eva Heim	August 9	66 yrs
Ron & Connie Phillips	August 11	46 yrs
Terry & Valarie Kolkmann	August 15	49 yrs
David & Marion Penka	August 15	49 yrs
Robby & Emily Walter	August 16	11 yrs
Richard & Debbie Burling	August 19	47 yrs
Kara & Clint Howard	August 21	15 yrs
Jonathan & Jennifer Caspersen	August 22	21 yrs
Virgil & Carolyn Bening	August 23	50 yrs
Dennis & Pat Morris	August 26	52 yrs
Bruce & Edie Cottrell	August 29	49 yrs
Tom & Judy Kuehnert	August 30	56 yrs
Richard & Courtney Nightingale	August 31	17 yrs



## South Tulsa Community House Awareness Sundays

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we will observe a special awareness of the needs of South Tulsa Community House by placing the grocery cart at the north entrance for your donations. Regular weekly donations will still be continued throughout each month at the collection center near the south entrance.



Donations needed include food, toiletry, and household items as well as empty prescription bottles. Let's keep filling the grocery cart, sharing God's blessings with those who are less fortunate.



## He Got an Early Start

Kenten Puttick, an accomplished speed skater who lives in Canada, once said that he had been exposed to Christianity his entire life. Adding a touch of humor, he said that he was even going to church before he was born.

Then he said, "My parents loved me dearly and they followed God's word in raising me. They taught me about Jesus."

Kenton's parents must have read Proverb 22:6: "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray" (NRSV).



# Mission News Update

## Damnamus ... Wait, Can We Say That in Church?

On May 13-15, in Luther's own city of Wittenberg, Germany, confessional Lutherans from all over Europe gathered for the Luther Academy Conference that was entitled, "*Damnamus.*" It is not a curse word but a statement: "We condemn ...." At the conference, the use of this word in the Lutheran Confessions was examined and held up for contemporary scrutiny. It began with a look at the source of all pure doctrine—the Holy Scriptures themselves. But it was our first presentation that drove home its use in our catechesis ... and by extension, all faithful teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

*Damnamus*, we condemn..., is needed now at this time more than ever. Why? Because we live in a world that wants to utter its benediction, its blessing, on any teaching that comes down the line. Like a snowball rolled in mud, rocks and filth, the world is willing to marry any two concepts together, even if they are diametrically opposed to one another. The world teaches that marriage is beautiful, but then wants to twist it into something it was never intended to be in same-sex unions. The world craves a union with a spiritual "higher power," but then turns inward to find it. The list of man's contradictions goes on and on. But, as Christians, we cannot sit idly by and join in blessing what the world is blessing.

*Damnamus*, we condemn..., is a part of being faithful to the faithful Word. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself condemned false teaching. He called Peter "Satan" when he spoke against His suffering (Mark 8:33). He chastised the Pharisees as a brood of vipers for their duplicitous teachings (Matthew 12:34). And He challenged the Sanhedrin's misapplication of justice (John 18:23). But He also sent his Church to go and to judge what is sin and therefore stands in need of forgiveness (John 20:22-23). And through His apostles, He instructed his Church to be watchful over its doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Jude 3).

*Damnamus*, we condemn..., is never popular nor winning of approval before the world, but (and this is essential!) how will the world ever know what it is for which we are contending if we never say what it is that we reject? If an insane math instructor said that in  $x+1=2$ ,  $x=1$  but then let  $x$  be valued as 2, 3, 4, 5 and on and on *ad infinitum*, then who would ever know what  $x$  really is? How much more deadly is the pastor or theologian who allows every answer to the question, "What does God say about salvation?" They will never then know the true answer which is always found in Christ, Christ first, Christ last and Christ alone.

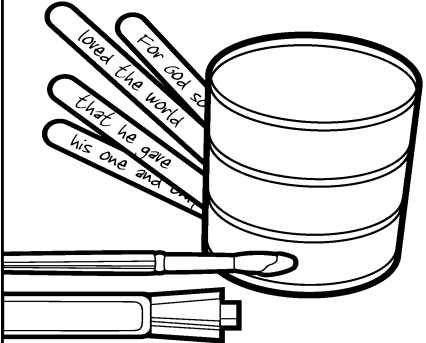
The devil is alive and busy. And the devil is still tempting mankind to say something other than what God said (cf. Genesis 3). Here on the mission field, and there on your mission field, let us take the great hymn upon our lips: *Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word!* It is our prayer that we joyously speak of Christ and His salvation; but it is also our prayer that we will be bold to say the "No" that needs to be said as well. We do that by reminding ourselves that it is not our word which we speak but Christ's name and God's Word: *for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.* (Psalm 138:2)



We commend you to Christ!  
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
*Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic*

# WAKE-UP WORDS

Play this memory game to start each day in God's Word.



### What you need:

- Paint and paint brushes
- Stickers
- An empty, clean tin can
- Permanent marker
- Bible
- Wooden craft sticks

### What you do:

1. Paint and decorate the outside of the can.
2. With marker, write a Bible verse on several sticks (only two or three words per stick).
3. Put the sticks in the can, and set it in a spot you'll see daily. As you eat or brush your teeth, practice unscrambling the verse and placing sticks in the correct order.
4. When you've memorized the verse, repeat with a new one.

## Irregular Verbs...

Irregular verbs certainly keep writers and editors on their toes. Consider the poem "Verbs Is Funny," by an unknown author:

A boy who swims may say he swum,  
But milk is skimmed and seldom skum,  
And nails you trim; they are not trum.

When words you speak,  
these words are spoken,  
But a nose is tweaked and can't be twoken.  
And what you seek is seldom soken.