

# Christ the Redeemer

## Lutheran Church

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{7\*UP lifting}  
ways to start your  
1st week of school

- 1- Wake UP- and Decide to have a good day
- 2- Dress UP- The best way to dress up is to put on a smile!
- 3- Cheer UP- say nice things and have a positive attitude
- 4- Stand UP- For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything.
- 5- Look UP- to the Lord. He is only a prayer away
- 6- Reach UP- for something higher. Set some good goals.
- 7- Lift UP- be a good friend, and help those around you.

**B**e still, and know I am God. *(Psalm 46:10)*  
**A**ll things God works for the good. *(Romans 8:28)*  
**C**ast all my anxiety on Him. *(1 Peter 5:7)*  
**K**now whose I am! *(1 John 3:1)*  
**T**rust in the Lord with all my heart. *(Proverbs 3:5)*  
**O**pen my eyes to see the truth. *(Psalm 119:18)*  
**S**how me your ways, Lord. *(Psalm 25:4)*  
**C**reate in me a clean heart. *(Psalm 51:10)*  
**H**e who is in me is greater... *(1 John 4:4)*  
**O**bey the Lord my God. *(Deut. 27:10)*  
**O**h Lord, you are my strength & shield. *(Psalm 28:7)*  
**L**et love and faithfulness never leave me. *(Proverbs 3:4)*



**Rev. Scott Burmeister**  
*Pastor*

**Suzanne Watt**  
*Dir. of Christian Education*

**Nikki Witt**  
*ECC Director*

**Michelle Stefanov**  
*Office Administrator*

**Mary Jane Landin**  
*Business Administrator*

**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**

On July 5, CTR celebrated Pastor Virgil Bening's 50th anniversary of his Ordination with a reception hosted by Parish Life. We pray for God's continued blessings on the years ahead for him and Carolyn.



"Thank you to Pastor Burmeister and all who celebrated the 50th anniversary of my ordination with cards and words of congratulations, special notes and gifts, reception and flowers, and the establishment of a scholarship fund in my name for seminary students from CTR. What a blessing to be here with you.

To God be the praise!"  
Pastor Virgil Bening

"A friend is one of the nicest things  
you can have, and one of the best  
things you can be."  
--Douglas Pagels

### Simple Symbiosis

Christians are like the several flowers in a garden, that have each of them the dew of heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other.

--John Bunyan







Fellow Redeemed,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen. I praise God for every one of you. What an amazing faith each of you are expressing.

These are challenging times, and what I mean by that is that these are faith-building times. Listen to what Peter teaches us in his First letter, *“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* Our faith will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. That means we are looking forward to the revealing of Jesus Christ, both here and now, in His Word and Sacraments, and on the last day, when He will come to raise us up to be with Him in heaven. Look forward, saints! Look forward to the future with a hope that is on the praise, glory and honor of Jesus. Look forward to the future with a joy that knows, because Jesus lives, we too will live with Him. Look forward to that day when we will be united with all those who have gone before us. The future is secure because of Jesus. Heaven’s doors are open to us because of Christ’s righteousness and his sacrificial death for us on the cross. Your faith in Jesus is genuine because Jesus Christ atoned for your sin. Amen.



--Pastor Burmeister

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I have now assumed the role of President of our congregation, I would like to share some thoughts and requests with you.

Considering all that is going on in the world, our nation, our state, our city, and our church, I ask you to commit to a renewed sense of prayer. We reside in a fallen world and need our faith to burn even more brightly as Satan renews his attacks on the church body. Pray for our church, pray for our staff, pray for all our leadership. Now more than ever we need that.

I also ask for your patience and understanding as we are so, so close to beginning the long-awaited construction and remodel of Christ the Redeemer. It is going to be messy, dirty, dusty, noisy, and very inconvenient and that is to be expected. That is what it is going to take to get to our end-goal of having a much more inviting, functional user-friendly facility.

However, let us not lose our sense of mission during this challenging transition. Our mission is not building a new facility, rather it is *“to lead people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ”*. That means that it is incumbent on us to, pardon the pun, put the best construction on everything and everyone we encounter. We, as a congregation, are so blessed and have been put in this spot at



Board and Lay Ministries  
Officers for 2020-2021

President:	Brad Young
President-Elect:	John Meinders
Past President:	Tom Kirby
Secretary:	Connie Thomas
Treasurer:	Jennie Gard
Director-at-Large:	Cheryl Davison
Director-at-Large:	Kyle Stein
Director-at-Large:	John Campbell
Director-at-Large:	Sam Woodard
Personnel Committee:	Ed Fager
ECC:	Chris Carson
Education:	Scott Chesher
Elders:	Jim Holt
Evangelism:	Steve Short
Family & Children:	Katie Michaels-Johnson
Finance:	Brenda Flasch
Outreach:	Patti Ross
Parish Life:	Danita Cockrell
Property:	Floyd Lemons
Stewardship:	Nancy Kirby
Strategic Planning:	Tim Kuehnert
Worship:	Cherry Volberding
Youth:	Amber Carson
Endowment Fund:	Rob Koch

this location for a reason. I continue to be amazed by the talent and dedication I see in all of you.





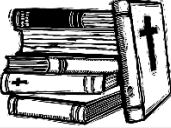

Think about how many new faces and souls that we will have visiting our church on a regular basis during construction. I can tell you from 32 years in construction that workers on construction sites feel invisible unless there is an issue. Think of them like you would visitors on Sunday morning. We have a real opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ through our interactions with them. In some cases, this may be the only time that person may have contact with the Gospel. In other cases, they may be Christians but may be weak in their faith due to family issues, COVID-19 or any number of other challenges and we may be just the strengthening that they need. Right now, who doesn’t need encouragement with all that is going on?

May God continue to bless and lead us as we begin our long-awaited goal.

Yours in Christ,  
Brad Young



August 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:15 AM Live Stream Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible	<b>27</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>28</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>29</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study	<b>30</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>31</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:15 AM Communion Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Class (& livestream) 10:45 AM Worship Service	<b>3</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 	<b>4</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>5</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>7</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:15 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Class (& livestream) 10:45 AM Communion Service	<b>10</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 7:00 PM Property Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>14</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts	<b>15</b> CORNERSTONE DEADLINE
<b>16</b> 8:15 AM Communion Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Class (& livestream) 10:45 AM Worship Service	<b>17</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 6:30 PM Board of Directors & Council of Lay Ministries 	<b>18</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>19</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>21</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:15 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Class (& livestream) 10:45 AM Communion Service	<b>24</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>25</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>26</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>28</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Education Sunday 8:15 AM Communion Service 9:30 AM Sunday School/Bible Class (& livestream) 10:45 AM Communion Service 	<b>31</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>1</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 	<b>2</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 10:00 AM Widows/ Widowers Bible Study 	<b>3</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr	<b>4</b> 7:00 AM Early Childhood Ctr 8:00 AM Roustabouts 	<b>5</b>





It's that time of year again: LWR School Supply collection time! A table has been set up in the Narthex. You may place your donations in the box underneath the display table. Our goal is to assemble 300 school kits. The CTR Outreach Ministry has purchased the bags, and now we must fill them. Stores have put out their school supplies, and these will probably go quickly this year with supplies lagging compared to previous years.

Each school bag needs to include:

- ⇒ 4 x 70-count spiral notebooks (wide or college rule)
- ⇒ 1 x 24-count box of crayons
- ⇒ 5 x unsharpened #2 pencils
- ⇒ 5 x ink pens (no gel, please)
- ⇒ 1 x eraser
- ⇒ 1 x pencil sharpener
- ⇒ 1 x blunt-tip school scissors
- ⇒ 1 x 12" ruler with metric included



If you have any questions or would like to make a monetary donation toward this project, contact Carol Fruehling at 918-805-1604 or Lynne Kollock at 918-808-1562.



CTR LWML will resume monthly activities in August as we assemble Lutheran World Relief (LWR) kits. Look for dates and times in the weekly church updates and check email for more information.

New officers elected in May will take their offices August 1.

Officers are:

President—Daphnee Brian  
V President—Sharon Schmidt  
Secretary—Lynne Kollock  
Treasurer—Lanece Young

The mission work of the LWML continues even though the Covid-19 pandemic prevents us from meeting and having our usual activities. Please continue to support the many missions of the LWML with your prayers and offerings.

You can go to LWML.org to learn more and to see the ways to support the mission grants. To learn more about the new mission grants of the Oklahoma District go to oklwm.org. Click on the main menu and go to Missions, then click on the video for 20-22 mission grants.

"Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you" (43:1-2 paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

### USHER DUTY

It's human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: "I'd never do what *she* did!" we think or say. Or "People who [fill in the blank] shouldn't call themselves Christians. They don't belong in the church." Jesus clearly said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else's eye and a log in one's own.



In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus' response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: "[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in. We're the ones who simply show people to their seats that someone else paid for."



**Deon & Debra Hull**

14 Founders Way, Unit B; St. Louis, MO 63105

**Mary Ann Meckfessel**

New apartment # 230

**Sally Neas**

sally.neas@mapcoplaza.com

**Gayle Pumpelly**

6414 S. 90th. E. Ct., Tulsa, OK 74133

**Tim Zwosta**

tzwosta@gbp.com; mobile: 918-671-6805

**Kayla Kuehnert**

Kaylajk918@gmail.com

## Outreach News

### South Tulsa Community House

CTR members continue to make donations of non-food items to South Tulsa Community House (STCH). Although our usual number of people coming to church regularly on Sunday has been low because of virus restrictions, a faithful few are contributing much needed items, especially those that can't be purchased with food stamps. They exclaim over the useful items of soaps, paper products, and household supplies, grooming items, toothpaste, and baby items that can be very expensive to buy.

So, please continue to fulfill a need of a family when you are out shopping. We pick up the items from church on Wednesdays and deliver to STCH on Thursdays. It really helps! If you want to help and can't go shopping, we'll shop for you. Leave a check in the office and designate it to "Outreach Ministry-STCH". **STCH is currently not taking any food items or plastic bags at this time.**

### Feeding People through Sunday School Offerings

Even though we did not meet for Sunday School during the second quarter of the year, Sunday School offerings came in! With the match from the Outreach budget, CTR sent a check to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in the amount of \$562.50. This is so helpful during this time of high unemployment and children home during the summer. Thank you for feeding God's children. If you would like to contribute what you would usually be putting in the Sunday School offering, leave a check to CTR in the office with the designation "Sunday School Offering".

### Missionary Support

Support from the Outreach budget continues for several missionaries: Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster in the Czech Republic, Antoine Lutz in Papua New Guinea, and Rev. Chehab, Salam Christian Fellowship in Illinois.

### Thank you from LCMS President Harrison

"Without you the LCMS would be less than it can be, impacting far fewer lives. But with and through you, God is performing marvelous deeds to make life-long disciples of all people!" President Harrison wrote a thank you letter for the \$2,702 CTR sent to LCMS Black Ministry for the Rosa Young Academies and After School Programs. This was from our Mission Sunday in February when Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray visited CTR.

### Update from Tulsa Saints

Tulsa Saints, the outreach to Tulsa's most vulnerable people living on the streets, has been busy this summer. Here is an update from Director Michael Bryan.

Blessings to all of the Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. I want to thank you all for taking a moment to hear the good news of the preaching of the Gos-



pel, the healing of the sick, and the lifting up of hearts as Tulsa Saints witnesses each Friday night in downtown Tulsa at the Denver Municipal Bus Station on 4th Street between Denver and Cheyenne.

What a time we live in. When COVID-19 struck, many services in Tulsa were shut off for the homeless and needy. Immediately, we noticed more hardship cases as people lost jobs, stress levels increased, and services that were once available were no longer there. We quickly began to run out of supplies such as toiletries, clothing, and other necessities.

Our team got together, prayed to Abba for guidance and the Holy Spirit led us to not only continue our Friday night mission, but we increased our footprint by going to the river camps on Wednesday evenings to help preach the Gospel and minister to those living there.

The one thing I have learned is God will use us not only when things are pleasant but also when times are tough. We never are to let fear stop us and we must trust the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide all our way. I thank Jesus, our Messiah, each day for the opportunity we have to change the life of just one person downtown. The angels sing and rejoice with each saved soul. Can we attempt to do anything less? Praise God and I pray each and every one of you who reads this finds an opportunity to serve our God in the things Jesus wants us to do.

If you have questions you can contact Michael at [tulasaintsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:tulasaintsfoundation@gmail.com). Donations of t-shirts, underwear, socks and toiletry items may be left at church and labeled "Tulsa Saints".

Contact Patti Ross at 918-691-5328 with questions and suggestions for the Outreach Ministry.





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

Greg & Deena Braun	August 1	39 yrs
Rob & Teena Newton	August 1	39 yrs
James & Rachel Morgan	August 2	17 yrs
David & Sarah Ross	August 4	19 yrs
Sean & Tracy Dickson	August 5	24 yrs
Gerald Coakley & Micky Flasch	August 6	4 yrs
Ken & Eva Heim	August 9	67 yrs
Matthew & Samantha Schultz	August 10	1 yr
Ron & Connie Phillips	August 11	47 yrs
Terry & Valarie Kolkman	August 15	50 yrs
David & Marion Penka	August 15	50 yrs
Robby & Emily Walter	August 16	12 yrs
Richard & Debbie Burling	August 19	48 yrs
Clint & Kara Howard	August 21	16 yrs
Jonathan & Jennifer Caspersen	August 22	22 yrs
Virgil & Carolyn Bening	August 23	51 yrs
Dennis & Pat Morris	August 26	53 yrs
Bruce & Edie Cottrell	August 29	50 yrs
Tom & Judy Kuehnert	August 30	57 yrs
Richard & Courtney Nightingale	August 31	18 yrs



"I AM ONLY ONE, BUT I AM ONE. I CANNOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT I CAN DO SOMETHING. AND THAT WHICH I CAN DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL DO."

~ BY DWIGHT L. MOODY ~



You can now sign up online to receive the CTR E-blast! This gives you access to the weekly news and events email as well as special announcements. Sign up today at <http://www.ctrtulsa.org/email-signup/> to receive it if you have not done so already.

**Keep up with coming events,  
announcements, and updates:**

**~Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/  
ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/)

**~Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/ctrtulsa/](https://www.instagram.com/ctrtulsa/)



The LCMS shared a three-year plan of daily Bible readings. It will take you through the entire Old Testament one time in three years. Psalms are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.



The OWLS will not meet until we are comfortable with the safety issues for everyone involved.

We look forward to our fellowship luncheons in the near future.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>AUGUST 2020</b>						
Jer. 49:1-6; Ps. 32; Eph. 1:1-14	Jer. 49:7-22; Ps. 33; Eph. 1:15-2:10	Jer. 49:23-33; Ps. 34; Eph. 2:11-22	Jer. 49:34-39; Ps. 35; Eph. 3:1-13	Jer. 50:1-16; Ps. 36; Eph. 3:14-21	Jer. 50:17-32; Ps. 37:1-22; Eph. 4:1-16	Jer. 48:21-47; Ps. 31; Acts 28:17-31 <b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Jer. 51:1-11; Ps. 38; Eph. 5:1-21	Jer. 51:11-23; Ps. 39; Eph. 5:22-6:4	Jer. 51:24-58; Ps. 40; Eph. 6:5-23	Jer. 51:59-64; Ps. 41; Phil. 1:1-11	Jer. 52:1-11; Ps. 42; Phil. 1:12-30	Jer. 52:12-23; Ps. 43; Phil. 2:1-11	Jer. 52:24-33; Ps. 44; Phil. 2:12-30 <b>15</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Lam. 1:1-22; Ps. 45; Phil. 3:1-11	Lam. 2:1-12; Ps. 46; Phil. 3:12-4:1	Lam. 2:13-22; Ps. 47; Phil. 4:2-23	Lam. 3:1-24; Ps. 48; Col. 1:1-14	Lam. 3:25-39; Ps. 49; Col. 1:15-23	Lam. 3:40-66; Ps. 50; Col. 1:24-2:5	Lam. 4:1-22; Ps. 51; Col. 2:6-15 <b>22</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Lam. 5:1-22; Ps. 52; Col. 2:16-23	Esther 1; Ps. 53; Col. 3:1-17	Esther 2; Ps. 54; Col. 3:18-4:6	Esther 3; Ps. 55; Col. 4:7-18	Esther 4; Ps. 56; 1 Thess. 1:1-10	Esther 5; Ps. 57; 1 Thess. 2:1-16	Esther 6; Ps. 58; 1 Thess. 2:17-3:5 <b>29</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
Esther 7; Ps. 59; 1 Thess. 3:6-13	Esther 8; Ps. 60; 1 Thess. 4:1-18					
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

**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 at the south entrance.



**Altar Flowers**

You can sign up to provide altar flowers, which you may take home following the late service. On the sign-up sheet write your name by the date and the special occasion for the flowers. Write your \$50 check to CTR, with ALTAR FLOWERS on the memo line.

**AUGUST**

- 2: by John & Sally Neas in celebration of Steve Neas and Liz Neas birthdays.  
2:  
9:  
9:  
16:  
16:  
23:  
23:  
30:  
30:



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!





Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

In his 1528 treatise “Confession Concerning Christ’s Supper” Martin Luther described God in this way:

*God is a supernatural, inscrutable being who exists at the same time in every little seed, whole and entire, and yet also in all and above all and outside all created things. Nothing is so small but God is still smaller, nothing so large but God is still larger, nothing is so broad but God is still broader, nothing so narrow, but*

*God is still narrower. God is an inexpressible being, above all and beyond all that can be described or imagined.*

This description brings to mind a quotation from the English writer and philosopher Aldous Huxley, “after silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.”

Luther well understood the ability of music to “expressive the inexpressible” mysteries of the faith and unite believers around the truth of God’s Word. Luther further wrote of music’s capacity to, “comfort the sad, encourage the despairing, humble the proud, calm the passionate, and to silence those full of hate.” The Church’s song is a global one that has resounded through the centuries, transcending geographical, denominational, and racial barriers.

That song has continued through times of adversity, sustaining and nurturing the faith of believers. Through that song, historically marginalized communities have given voice to prayers of hope, resilience, justice, and peace. In joining in that song we become a part of something which encompasses believers of all times and places, voices raised in praise of the Creator of the universe.

During these past months, the Church’s song has taken on a different form than we have come to expect. Global events have required church musicians around the world to find new methods of offering and presenting that song in worship in ways that care for the physical wellbeing of the people they are called to serve. It has required worshippers to hear and to participate in that song in a new way. Despite all this, in the words of a well-loved hymn, “through the Church the song goes on.” Soli Deo Gloria!

In closing, here is a brief verse from Martin Luther’s “A Preface for All Good Hymnals:”

*Of all the joys upon this earth  
None has for mortals greater worth  
Than what I give with my ringing  
And with voice sweetly singing.  
There cannot be an evil mood  
When there are singing folk so good  
But God in me more pleasure finds  
Than in all joys of earthly minds  
To God I give my melody  
And thanks in all eternity.*

## Christmas in Branson November 4 - 6

with Immanuel Lutheran Travelers

**Agenda:** Christmas Wonderland, Clay Cooper, Noah, Let There Be Light, Dublin Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies, Shopping

This is a 3 day/2 night stay in Branson, MO. Cost of the trip is \$320 per person. This includes bus fare, two nights at Lynina Inn, three lunches, two evening meals, and all shows.

Please bring a WRAPPED white elephant gift! You must bring a list of medications and the phone number of a contact person for medical release. Please arrive by 7:30 AM on Wednesday, November 4. The bus will depart from the south side of Immanuel Lutheran, 400 N. Aspen in Broken Arrow, at 8 AM, returning on Friday evening around 6PM.

Please make your check payable to Judy Newman, 120 S. Joshua Ave, Broken Arrow, OK 74012. Questions? Call Judy Newman 918-254-6238 or Barbara Sabourin 918-437-4405. \$100 PER PERSON will reserve your seat. FINAL PAYMENT DUE August 31st. Cancellation policy: NO REFUNDS after September 15th.

## Mission News Update

### A Bittersweet Goodbye

One challenge in serving an expat community is that members are always coming and going. One family gets involved, and, before you know it, they have gone off, back to their home country. Over the past year, we have been blessed to have Richard Sovitzky serve as our cantor. Richard has an extraordinary voice and a deep love for the Divine Service. So, when we had to bid him farewell recently, it was a sad thing for us as a congregation, but also sweet to us, because he is leaving for pastoral studies at the Fort Wayne Seminary. (Added to that, we will soon have to bid farewell to his sister, Isabel, as well, as she is leaving to work in one of our Lutheran school ministries.) So, as the congregation bids farewell, it does so as a holy “catch and release” program. That is, we receive them for a time, only to pass them on to be a blessing to others and in other places. This is the work and joy of the Church. The local congregation is a seminary in the literal sense of that word, which means “seedbed.” In it, God abundantly sows His seed of the Holy Scriptures. Those words come into our ears and, further, even into our hearts, creating faith that clings to Jesus for salvation. Those words become visible in the Sacraments—water, bread, and wine— and deliver to us the forgiveness that Christ has won for us. And through these, the Christian grows to become a healthy seedling and then onto maturity and, from there, becomes a bearer of fruit. It is as the reproductive cycle of plants: seeds to plants, plants to seeds, and the whole thing continues on in perpetuity. This means we are all missionaries of a sort. True, some have answered the call to be a “professional” missionary, those who engage cultures not their own with the Word of God. That includes learning languages, learning about the culture, and finding ways to bring that Word to people outside of the Church. But still, all Christians are missionaries at the very least in the lives that they live to the glory of Christ and in the calling of ever more sheep to hearken to the voice of the only Shepherd who can truly be called good. We— you there, and we here—are all a part of letting the world know the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be a blessing. We ask for your prayers for Richard and his formation as a pastor. But we also ask for your prayers for us, that our open-door and open-heart would be inviting to the next people who come to be fed and sent to be a part of the calling to the world. And know that we pray for the same thing for you and your congregation. Christ’s return is ever drawing closer, therefore, let us be about His work.

### A Baptism

This month brought one of those moments that is a cause of great celebration—a child was baptized into Christ and into the Church. The family of the child are old friends of our Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava. So, of course, he performed the Baptism and, led us in singing praises to our gracious God. Currently, we are catechizing two adults, one for Holy Baptism and the other for membership in the Lutheran Church. We thank the Lord of the Church for the growth that His Holy Spirit brings.



### A New Way to Stay Linked to Us

When the Coronavirus closed down public worship, we adapted and started live-streaming services via our congregational Facebook page. From its reception, we realized that perhaps this is something that we should somehow keep in part. So, now, we are using the internet to publish a podcast of the sermon for each Sunday. You can find our podcasts here on Podbean. The files are in MP3 format, so they should be able to play on most players. Come by our site and check out the sermons we have already posted as well as check in with us each week as we bring the living Word of God to the people of Prague.

### Czech Lessons

We are still taking lessons in the Czech language. It seems to us that the more we study, the harder it seems to get. Czech has a very hard syntax. And it also is a challenge to hear with an uninitiated ear. So, we are a year into our Czech lessons and are still trying to use this language. But word by word, we are slowly making headway and, even more, we are honoring the people of Prague by trying to use the language that they themselves know is hard.

### God Be with You!

It is hard for us, as Americans, to hear of the problems that our nation is going through. We are praying that God would use even the troubling times there to be an open door for many to share Christ. Please, remember that the Lord is indeed Lord and will never will forsake you!

Kristův pokoj s vámi! (The peace of Christ be with you!)

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
Your Missionaries to the  
Czech Republic







For the Month of May	2019	2020	For the Month of June	2019	2020
May Giving .....	\$62,150	\$62,039	June Giving .....	\$76,026	\$66,379
Monthly Budget .....	\$63,800	\$81,788	Monthly Budget .....	\$79,750	\$65,431
Year to Date Giving .....	\$350,386	\$322,782	Year to Date Giving .....	\$426,412	\$389,160
Year to Date Budget .....	\$334,950	\$359,869	Year to Date Budget .....	\$414,699	\$425,299
YTD Expenses.....	\$318,857	\$344,798	YTD Expenses.....	\$392,117	\$423,936
<b>Building Fund Contribution:</b>			<b>Building Fund Contribution:</b>		
May receipts: \$23,540.50			June receipts: \$26,688.00		
Balance: \$1,613,503.13			Balance: \$1,640,191.13		



**In-Person Service Announcement**

We will resume in person worship on July 26 at 8:15 and 10:45. We WILL live stream the 8:15 service. We will have adult and high school Sunday School at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. We WILL livestream the Sunday school class. Elementary and Jr. High will continue with online Sunday School.

We will adhere to the city of Tulsa Ordinance NO. 24408, dated July 15, 2020. Masks will be required at CTR. This will facilitate a two fold purpose; first so that we can serve one another by keeping the spread of germs to a minimum, and second so that we can sing all of the hymns and liturgy. Wear your masks while you sing and praise God as He serves us through Worship with His Word and Sacraments. Masks are available in the narthex.

Communion will be distributed in a walk through manner, maintaining social distancing. When you are at the distribution table, lower your mask, receive Christ's body and blood and then raise your mask and return to your pew. The mandatory mask mandate will allow us to return to normal Divine Services as before the pandemic, with full singing (through our masks). Thank you for adhering to the Tulsa Ordinance, and if you do not feel comfortable coming to church, please enjoy the services online. We thank God for His Holy Spirit that will produce in us the fruit of patience as we move through this pandemic with our faith firmly in Jesus Christ.

**Patient Attention - Valuable Discoveries**

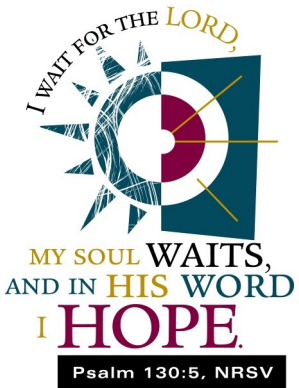
For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience - or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hypervigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.

Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* ("year of wonders") and reportedly said, "If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent."

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has physical distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God's presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as "I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope" (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?



# Seminary News

Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis! Debra and I would like to express our gratitude to all of those who support us through prayers, notes, and finances. We cherish your encouragement as we start our four- year journey through Seminary.

Some of you reading this may have no idea who I am, so allow me to introduce myself and my family. I am the product of the Lutheran school system from the time I was in Kindergarten through college. I spent my childhood in the suburbs of Chicago during the school year, and my grandparents' farm in central Illinois during the summers. My family members were and are my primary source of spiritual growth, and I am honored to move that legacy forward by becoming a Pastor.

My wife, Debra, and I have been married over 30 years. We met at Concordia College, River Forest, IL. Debra was in the Teacher Education program, and I was focused on the vocation of Director of Christian Education. Deb took a teaching position in New York City while I finished school. We were married, and I joined Deb in New York after I graduated. This was the start of a 30-year journey that has taken us through several phases in career and family.

We have three grown sons: Peter (Tulsa, OK), William (Ft. Riley, KS), and Steven (Dover AFB, Dover DE). They were all born in Lakeland, Florida where we were teaching, and I was also engaged in Youth Ministry and coaching. Our next stop was Woodlands Lutheran Camp, where I served as the Program Director and Deb served in various roles. The Lord then led us to Walcamp in northern Illinois, where I served as Executive Director. I continued in that role at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa, OK. My latest Ministry position was the Mission Developer for the Oklahoma District of the LCMS.

In each position and each phase of life, we have accumulated practical experience in ministry. Being a life-long learner, I have continually searched for resources and people that expanded my understanding of the world and the Kingdom. This phase, however, will be a directed and focused continuation of God's guidance in my life. Since I have been in Ministry for about 30 years, I think of it as a retooling so that I can fulfill a different role in the Kingdom, the role of Pastor, as God sees fit.

I appreciate that not everyone has a grasp of the process involved in becoming a Pastor in the Lutheran Church, so allow me to help you understand. The program that I am in, the Master of Divinity (M. Div. for short), is a vocational degree and is much like the program a medical doctor completes. It is a combination of classroom learning and application through experience in the field. One must meet academic requirements to qualify for the program. A knowledge of basic concepts in Lutheran Theology, Old Testament and New Testament studies, and the original Biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek must be established through undergraduate classes or tests. If one does not demonstrate those competencies, they can take classes to meet the requirements.

During the first two years, I will spend much of my time in the classroom and will also be assigned to a congregation for what is called field work where I will gain experience serving in a congregation. After two years of study, I will have a one-year internship called a vicarage. Vicars are assigned to a congregation

where they practice preaching, teaching, celebrating the Sacraments, and working together with the members of a congregation to advance the Gospel in their community. Having completed vicarage, I return to the seminary for one more year of intensive study that is more focused on where the Lord is leading me in His Ministry. The culmination of the seminary experience is ordination into the public ministry and Installation into a congregation. Then the real work begins.

For me, the path starts with a summer class in Biblical Greek. As of this writing, I have only been in Greek for a week but I am doing well. Pastors Burmeister (Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, OK) and Tiews (Trinity, Okmulgee, OK) guided me in some of the basics prior to seminary to avoid being overwhelmed in the first week. It's like going back to kindergarten. Over the span of seven weeks, our class will progress from learning the alphabet to college level Greek. Trying to learn a new language in that time frame is comparable to trying to drink from a fire hose! After I complete the class, I should be able to decipher, with the help of tools, the text of the New Testament in Greek. Next summer, I will take Hebrew in the same way.

It is reasonable to ask why the seminary requires the original languages as a basis for our education. My Greek Professor, Dr. David Lewis, describes the difference between English translations and the original Greek texts through an analogy. It is like the difference between watching a full screen movie theater production of a classic action movie or watching the movie on TV. A great epic story like Star Wars in the theater is shown on a broad screen and the action spans from one side to the other. The music is full, and the sound attacks your senses from every angle to the point that you not only hear it but feel the action. The television version is formatted to fit a smaller screen and the sound is compressed.

The faithfully translated English texts are still inspired and create faith in the hearer, yet there is a depth of understanding that is available in the Greek that does not naturally flow to the translations due to imprecision in the English language. This is sometimes why translations vary in their word choices, as you may have experienced in Bible classes.

Lutheran Pastors should be able to, according to the seminary, provide the depth that may be missing in passages to their listeners and students of the Word. I am blessed to have the opportunity to learn Biblical Greek and hopefully become proficient.

I thank God that He has provided this opportunity for us through those who support us with prayers, encouragement, and finances. This month we ask you to pray for...

- the ability and capacity to continue to successfully complete my studies of Greek.
- Deb's company to allow her to continue to work remotely from St. Louis.
- for the continuation of the ministry that I left to attend Seminary.
- for other members of the Body of Christ to join in supporting this venture.

Thank you and God may God continue to bless and keep you!

Deon and Debra Hull  
14 Founders Way, Unit B  
St. Louis, MO 63105



# GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

**What you need:**

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue

**What you do:**

**Balloon Badminton:** Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

**Rhythmic Routines:** Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

**Champion Crown:** Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



DCE Suzanne Watt

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

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



*"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*

### LOWER ELEMENTARY (PRE-3RD)



Lower Elementary students are SIMPLY LOVED! In this Sunday School series children simply experience God's love and explore a foundational, Jesus-centered journey through the story of God's love. Each week's video includes music, the week's Bible story and fun activities. Materials for at home activities and crafts are mailed to your home each week so you can follow along whenever you chose to watch the video and dig in to God's Word.

Videos are posted on the CTR website Sunday School page each week.

### UPPER ELEMENTARY (4TH-5TH) NEW!!



BE BOLD is specially designed for kids in upper elementary. It's not about having all the answers—it's about being willing to listen to kids and explore what Scripture has to say. BE BOLD tackles faith questions head-on...even when the answers aren't clear. Students will receive a Student Book and Weekly Mystery Mission.

This class will begin September 6.

### JUNIOR HIGH (6TH-8TH)



**6TH-8TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Join us on Zoom each Sunday morning at 9:45 AM for a Zoom Sunday School class. We are currently using a study titled "Fierce."

The Zoom information will be sent to your household email address. Pop in and hangout and join us! We miss your face!

**CONFIRMATION**

New Confirmation classes will begin on September 13. Information will be sent to your family regarding curriculum and lesson plans.

### HIGH SCHOOL (9TH-12TH)



Until regular classes can resume High School students are invited to participate in Pastor's Sunday School class on Sunday mornings in person or via live-stream.

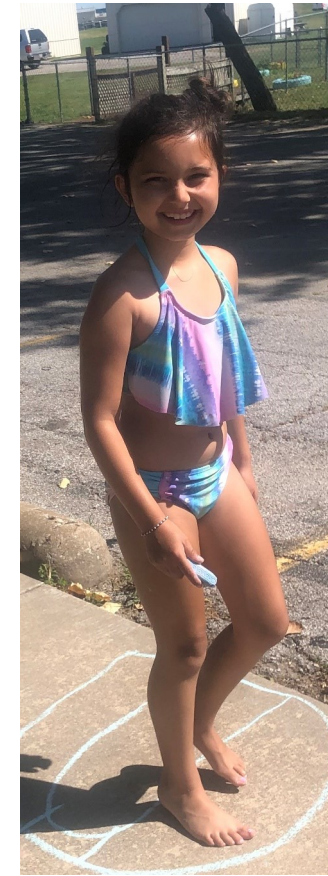
High School students are invited to a High School Small Group twice a month on Sunday evenings beginning September 13 and 27. If any families are interested in hosting this gathering in your home, please contact DCE Suzanne. Small group nights will include a short Bible study and games or activities.



## A composite image consisting of two photographs. The top photograph shows two young children, likely twins, sitting at a white table outdoors. They are both wearing blue and white striped long-sleeved shirts. The child on the left is looking slightly to the left of the camera, while the child on the right is looking directly at the camera. In the background, there is a grassy field, a wooden fence, and a red sign that says "FIRETRUCK". The bottom photograph is a close-up shot of the same child on the right, looking down at the table. The background shows a clear blue sky and a white building.



# ECC



A young girl with dark hair and a pink bikini top stands on a black tarp, smiling. She has a colorful fish-scale pattern on her bikini bottom. A younger girl with blonde hair is visible behind her.



**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.**



## Cornerstone 9