



Service Focus:

**Undivided Attention: On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost | July 27, 2025



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## Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. It is not just about information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, our service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). **If you are a guest today**, know that we are thankful you have joined us, pray that you are blessed through the service this morning, and invite you to come back again in the future. Before you leave, please take a moment to sign our guest book in the entryway or fill out a Connection Card found in a card holder in your row. Cards can be handed to Pastor Schroeder before you leave. You can also let us know you were here by scanning this QR code.



## For Your Convenience

- **The order of service** is printed in this folder. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal in front of your seat. The pastor will speak the words in normal print. **The congregation is invited to speak those printed in bold.** Please participate as you are comfortable today.
- **Restrooms** are located in the fellowship hall building to the left as you exit church.
- Please reserve the rows in the back of the church for families with small children.
- If you are in need of any other assistance, any one of our members will be happy to assist you.

## Participation & Children

Sometimes parents (and even churches) think that worship is not a place for children. At Our Redeemer, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshipping with their families and learning about Jesus' love for them. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, **children are models of faith** from which we can all learn (Luke 18:16,17). Similarly, they learn how to "do church" by watching mom and dad.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for activer worship engagement and participation by all, including children, balancing new service elements each week with regular repetition for learning and memorization.
- The **sights and sounds of active children** within our congregation are a great joy to us and **evidence that God is blessing our future even now!**

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer the following:

- If your child needs a moment, an area in the fellowship hall building is open. It is located just to the left as you exit church. A broadcast of the service is also in this room.
- Other families are willing and ready to help. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- Activity sheets that kids can work on throughout the service are available on the stand in the back.

## Current Series: Undivided Attention

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being “free from distraction.” But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be **freed** from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give his followers power and focus. Still today, through his Word, Jesus grants those gifts to his disciples.

June 29	Pentecost 3	On Christ's Call for Commitment
July 6	Pentecost 4	On the Want for Workers
July 13	Pentecost 5	On a Neighbor in Need
July 20	Pentecost 6	On the One Thing Needed
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Pentecost 7</b>	<b>On the Privilege and Purpose of Prayer</b>
August 3	Pentecost 8	On Useful Resources
August 10	Pentecost 9	On Heavenly Treasure

## Service Focus

In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. Natural! What does not come naturally, however, is a proper understanding of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a privilege, based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship we have with God, our Father. And the purpose of prayer is really not to tell God what we want, but to claim that which God wants for us. Prayer provides opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. Today, we give our undivided attention to what God says about this access we call prayer. Along with Jesus' disciples we say, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1).

## Prayer before the Service

Thank you, dear Lord, for the privilege of prayer. Thank you for listening to all that we have to say. Thank you for answering our requests in ways that are in line with your will. And thank you for bringing us closer to you through this wonderful method of communication. Make me bold and persistent as I approach your throne of grace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder  
Hymnsoft Operator: Al Todd  
Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler  
Fellowship: Sonja Todd

# The Service

## Welcome

Concerning the text of this 21st-century hymn, the composers say, "So incredible is the Word of God's power. It is our prayer that through the power of the Spirit, this hymn will prepare people to humbly listen to the Bible being taught and to respond to the huge consequences it has on their lives."

## Opening Hymn

Speak, O Lord  
Christian Worship 21 633



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,  
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights

of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our  
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the

deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.  
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.

that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll

love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can  
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.  
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.  
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Stand

## Confession

In the name of the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

**Amen.**

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

**For faithless worrying and selfish pride,**

**For sins of habit and sins of choice,**

**For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,**

**You should cast me away from your presence forever.**

**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The confession emphasizes the themes of original and actual sins and the overriding need for the Lord's mercy.*

*The pastor announces forgiveness to the penitent congregation. He appeals to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the basis for the full and free forgiveness of sins.*

## Song of Praise

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly  
*Christian Worship 484 (st. 2,3)*

*This song reminds us that the Christian, forgiven through Christ, wants to serve him with body and soul. We pray for lives that live in Jesus' holiness with him as our guide. The author of this mid-19th-century hymn was a timber merchant who wrote quite a lot of poetry and hymns for children.*

2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, by the gift of Christ, his  
3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice for the sake of Christ, your  
Son, what great good - ness he has shown us, what high  
Son; lo, our hope a - bides now on - ly in the  
mar - vels he has done! Let us to him prompt - ly,  
right - eous - ness he won. Bless and save us, help and  
free - ly, yield our bod - ies and our souls, thank - ful  
guide us, watch to com - fort and re - store, till in  
that his love pro - tects us, that his wis - dom all con - trols.  
heav'n we rest re - joic - ing, prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The Prayer of the Day helps the worshipers focus on a central theme drawn from the readings of the day.*

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Children's Devotion

*Abraham prays on the basis of what he knows about the LORD: that the LORD is a just judge, that the LORD shows mercy, and that the LORD invites us to be bold in our prayers.*

### First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup> that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

<sup>26</sup> The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, <sup>28</sup> what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"

"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

<sup>29</sup> Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?"

He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."

<sup>30</sup> Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"

He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

<sup>31</sup> Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"

He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."

<sup>32</sup> Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." (NIV)

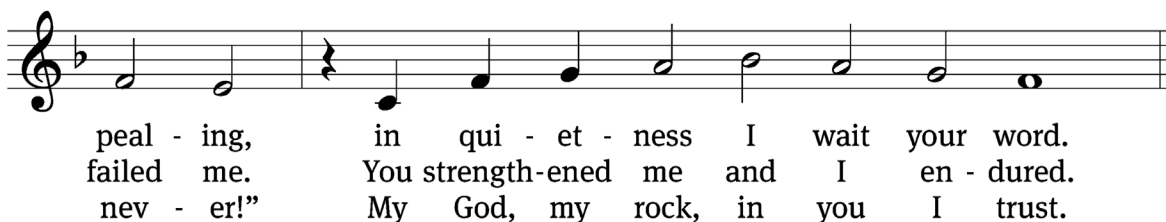
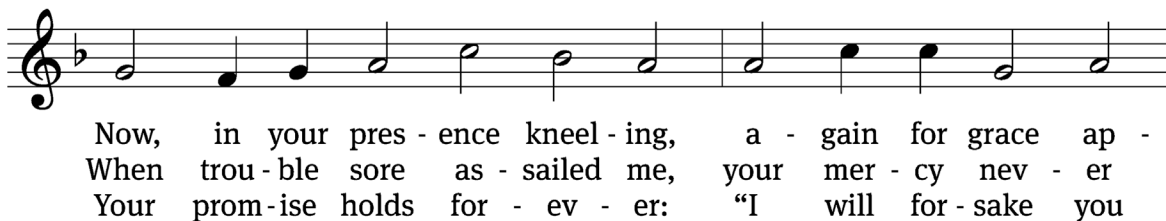
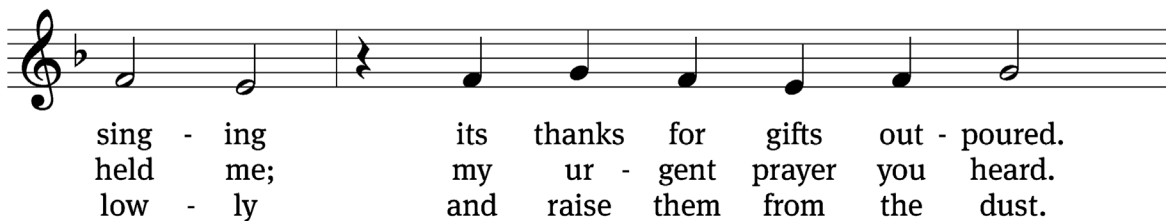
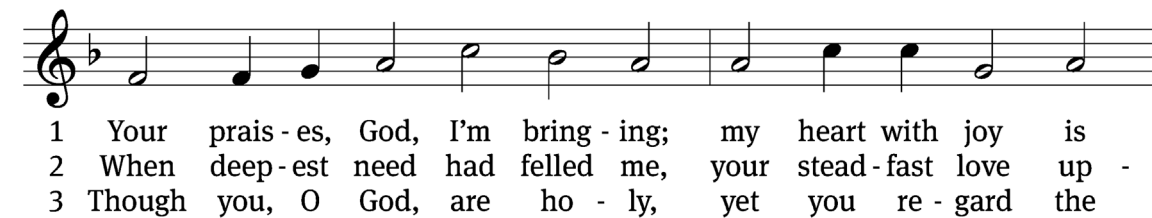
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 138

*The Church sings  
Psalm 138 in services  
celebrating public  
confession that God  
is a gracious Savior.  
It leads off the final  
section of psalms  
written by King David.*





Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God's will would be done.

## Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.<sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Savior,<sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.<sup>7</sup>And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles. (NIV)


The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**


This 20th-century hymn was written by an American Lutheran pastor and hymn writer. He drew inspiration from the Gospel accounts of Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray, particularly from Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13. The hymn is structured as a prayer, asking for divine instruction and guidance in approaching God through prayer.

## Hymn of the Day

Lord, Teach Us How to Pray  
*Christian Worship 21 719*



1 Lord, teach us how to pray as once the Twelve you taught,  
2 Lord, teach us how to pray when cares dis - tract the mind.  
3 Lord, teach us how to pray; re - kin - dle faith's bright flame,  
4 Lord, teach us how to pray; re - mind us day by day



for we can nev - er find the words to praise you as we ought.  
Help us to wait in qui - et - ness, a calm - er spir - it find.  
un - til our faith leaps up a - gain to speak and praise your name.  
that you wait ea - ger - ly to hear be - fore we think to pray.

Jesus teaches us how to pray and how our Father will answer.

## Sermon

Luke 11:1-13

### “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

<sup>1</sup>One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

<sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“ ‘Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.’ ”



<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ <sup>7</sup> And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (NIV)

## My Christian Life – Lord, Teach Us to Pray //

By his work as my Savior, Jesus opens up the lines of communication I have with the almighty and loving God in heaven. I have the privilege of coming to him in prayer. I want to respond to this gift by ...

- ☐ Setting a reminder to pray daily (using an alarm on my phone, a prominent note, a prayer book in a conspicuous spot, etc.). I don’t want to stop praying about something just because an answer hasn’t come yet.
- ☐ Using my role as a parent, grandparent, or mentor to actively teach a child or a new-to-the-faith Christian how to pray using the Lord’s Prayer as a model or the ACTS model (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication [asking]).
- ☐ Joining the *Our Redeemer Prayer Chain* to pray for those whose needs I can bring before God’s throne of grace. This will help me to include others in my prayers. (See p. 14 in this bulletin.)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Catechism

### Our Father in heaven.

#### *What does this mean?*

**With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.**

*The Address of the  
Lord’s Prayer and Mar-  
tin Luther’s explanation  
of the Address from his  
Small Catechism.*

*In the Prayer of the Church, the congregation agrees on earth what the Father in heaven may do for it. Petitions and thanksgivings are offered for all in authority and for human need.*

## Prayer of the Church

We give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole heart. Because you have answered our prayers and delivered us from the midst of trouble, we know, O Lord, that your steadfast love endures forever.

**Therefore we are bold to come before you through the merits of Jesus Christ, your Son with these petitions.**

We regret, O Lord, that in spite of your loving-kindnesses we have often repaid you with our sins. Our sinful selves have been buried with Christ in Baptism, but we often fail to rise to newness of life.

**You have given us ample assurance in your Word that in Christ all our sins are forgiven, yet we often fail to accept this forgiveness with our whole heart.**

You have assured us that when we ask, you will give, when we seek, we shall find, and when we knock, it shall be opened to us. Yet we have prayed with less than wholehearted faith in your promises.

**We have often abused the Lord's Prayer by saying it without thinking or doubting when we pray. For these and all our transgressions, forgive us, O Lord.**

Empower us with your Holy Spirit. May he strengthen our faith in your good providence.

**Help us to pray with meaning, trusting that we have been redeemed through Christ.**

*Special prayers of intercession may follow*

Here us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Be a source of help to the helpless and a source of hope to the hopeless.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*As a response of faith, the members of Our Redeemer present gifts of money to the Lord. God's work must be done. God's word of salvation, the word we have just heard, must be preached to all people everywhere. We pray that God use these gifts to accomplish such vital work!*

## Offering

The members of Our Redeemer have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. **If you are a guest with us this morning**, we are so happy you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. For those who wish to give a gift, you can place an offering in the **offering plate** located near the doors where you entered church today. A plate will be there as you depart today. You may also **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone's camera to be re-directed to a page where you can give an offering. While the members of Our Redeemer support this ministry with their gifts, we understand that you might want to learn more about us before you choose to the same.



We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Connection Card** (located in the book rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Schroeder following the service. You could also let us know you were here today by filling out a card online by **scanning the QR code** to the left.

## Hymn

Come, My Soul, with Every Care  
*Christian Worship* 409 (st. 1-4)

*Written by John Newton, the author of the hymn "Amazing Grace," this hymn on prayer is based on Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 3:5-9. The hymn remains a timeless invitation to believers to bring their whole selves before God in prayer—confident not in their worthiness, but in Christ's gracious welcome.*

- 1 Come, my soul, with ev'ry care; Jesus loves to answer prayer.  
He himself bids you to pray And will never turn away.**
- 2 You are coming to a king—Large petitions with you bring,  
For his grace and pow'r are such, None can ever ask too much.**
- 3 With my burden I begin: Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let your blood, for sinners spilt, Set my conscience free from guilt.**
- 4 Lord, your rest to me impart; Take possession of my heart.  
There your blood-bought right maintain And without a rival reign.**

*Stand*

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

*All of our requests, all of our prayers, all of our needs are summed up in the prayer that our Savior, Jesus Christ, taught us to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13.*

## Closing Litany and Blessing

When no one else seems to listen or to care,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking.**

When we have questions that need to be answered,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking.**

When we have troubles that are pulling us apart,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking.**

When we are struggling to make certain decisions in our lives,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking.**

*The closing litany is a form of responsive prayer or declaration that concludes a service. It typically involves a series of petitions or affirmations that the congregation responds to collectively. It serves to unify the congregation in a final act of worship before dismissal.*

When we are concerned about the welfare of others,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking.**

When we are wondering about what you have in mind for us,  
**may we come to you in prayer, O Lord, asking and seeking and knocking, knowing that you hear us always, only because Jesus has restored our relationship with you.**

*Ephesians 3:20,31*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

*In a moving melody, the words of this hymn encourage us to pray continually and confidently to the Lord. Parents are to model this for their children, so that when they establish their own homes, the influence of their parents' prayer life will be part of this new household.*

## Closing Hymn

Christians, While on Earth Abiding  
*Christian Worship 408*

**Christians, while on earth abiding,  
Let us never cease to pray,  
Firmly in the Lord confiding  
As our parents in their day.  
Be the children's voices raised  
To the God their parents praised.  
May his blessing, failing never,  
Rest upon his people ever.**

## Acknowledgments

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## Attendance

Sunday Morning Worship (July 13) - 47

## Our Redeemer News

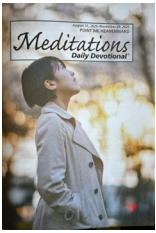
### Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

August 3, 11:00am - Starting Point - Christianity 101

August 6, 6:30pm - Starting Point - Christianity 101

### Home Visits

Pastor Schroeder would like to meet with all the members of Our Redeemer by having home visits. Each visit will be about 30-45 minutes and would be done at your home. If you'd prefer, we could also meet elsewhere (church, coffee shop, etc.). Just state that on the signup sheet if it is different from your home. Signup sheets are located on the stand next to the information table outside.

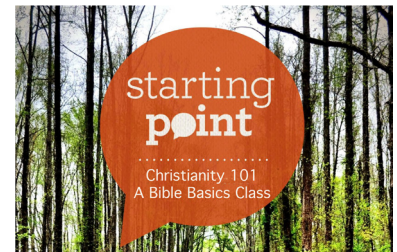


### New Copies of Meditations Daily Devotional Available

Have you experienced the power of a daily encounter with God and his Word? The newest edition of *Meditations Daily Devotional* is available on the table in the courtyard. *Meditations* is a personal and inspiring devotional booklet offering a brief yet thought-provoking Bible study every day. Each of the devotions is clearly and accurately written, and the booklet includes daily Bible verses, devotions, and prayers. Through focus on and faith in God's true Word, *Meditations* provides guidance and encouragement for daily living.

### New Starting Point - Christianity 101 Course Beginning Next Week

Getting back to the basics of the Bible always shores up our faith's foundation. Beginning next week on Sunday morning, August 3, at 11am and Wednesday, August 6, at 6:30pm, we will offer our *Starting Point - Christianity 101* course. Use this course as a review for yourself or bring along a family member or friend to introduce them to your church. This course is also the one we have those interested in joining Our Redeemer to check out what our church teaches and to get questions answered. We hope you can join us!



Managing God's Gifts To Us

### Managing God's Gifts to Us

Throughout Scripture, there is a close connection between God's grace and God's gifts. It is out of grace—pure, undeserved love—that God's gifts flow to us. The Greeks knew “grace” as “an action of the king in giving an undeserved gift to one of his subjects for the pure joy of doing it.” In such a show of kindness, the recipient received something beyond his wildest dreams: a gift from the king. Our lesson for today assures us that this is the way God operates. He

knows how to give us good gifts, and he does it often. The Lord's Prayer is answered constantly in our lives as God's grace abounds. Because God knows our needs and how to give us what we need, we place our trust in him. That trust translates into freedom for us as good stewards to return to God our expressions of thanks for his grace and his gifts. To help be kept informed of finances at Our Redeemer, here is the recent offerings report.

	Last Week	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Actual Offerings	\$3,870	\$12,554	\$83,163
Budgeted Offerings	\$2,600	\$7,800	\$79,803
Difference	\$1,270	\$4,754	\$3,360





## Join the Prayer Chain at Our Redeemer

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Do you want to make a real, lasting difference in people's lives—right from your home, at any time of day? At Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, we are starting up again the Our Redeemer Prayer Chain—a group of caring individuals who commit to lifting up the needs of others in prayer as soon as they are shared.

### *Here's the need:*

Every day, people in our church family and community face illness, loss, spiritual battles, and urgent life decisions. They need support—not just in word, but in prayer. Jesus teaches us to bring our burdens to God and to pray for one another.

### *Here's how you can help:*

Join the Our Redeemer Prayer Chain and be part of a faithful response to those in need. You'll receive prayer requests by text, email, or phone call (your choice), and you can pray whenever and wherever you are. It's a simple but powerful way to serve. Make a difference today.

### *If you'd like to join the Prayer Chain or want to learn more:*

Sign up on the information table in the courtyard or contact Pastor Schroeder if you have questions.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." – James 5:16

Let's be a church that prays boldly, loves deeply, and lifts one another up in Christ.

## Using the ACTS Prayer Model to Guide Praise & Prayer

The **ACTS** acronym is a simple yet profound framework that helps Christians structure their prayers and focus their hearts in meaningful communication with God. Each letter stands for a key component of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Using **ACTS** leads to well-rounded prayers that keep God at the center while addressing both our spiritual and personal needs.

### **A - Adoration**

Adoration is the act of praising God simply for who he is – His greatness, holiness, love, and majesty. In this part of prayer, we focus our attention upward, acknowledging God's character and giving Him the worship he deserves. It's about honoring and glorifying God with our words and hearts.

Example: "Lord, you are holy and mighty, the Creator of all things and full of mercy."

### **C - Confession**

Confession involves humbly acknowledging our sins before God. It is a time of self-examination and repentance, where we bring our failings into the light and seek God's forgiveness. Confession helps us walk in honesty and humility.

Example: "Father, I confess that I have been impatient and self-centered. Please forgive me."

## ACTS Prayer Model



## **T - Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for all his blessings—both physical and spiritual. This includes thanking him for answered prayers, his provision, his guidance, and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. A thankful heart fosters joy and contentment.

Example: “Thank you, Lord, for my family, for your daily providing, and the hope I have in Jesus.”

## **S - Supplication**

Supplication means bringing our requests to God. It involves praying for our own needs as well as interceding on behalf of others. God invites us to bring all our concerns to him, trusting in his wisdom and care. Supplication keeps us dependent on God and reminds us of his power to act.

Example: “Lord, please give me wisdom in my decisions today. Be with my friend who is sick and bring her healing and peace.”



### **Martin Luther and Prayer**

#### **Prayer is Commanded by God**

Prayer is just as strictly and seriously commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, and so on. Let no one think that it makes no difference whether he prays or not. Common people think this, who grope in such delusion and ask, “Why should I pray? Who knows whether God heeds or will hear my prayer? If I do not pray, someone else will.” And so they fall into the habit of never praying. – *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (pp. 408,409).

### **The Christian Prays Constantly Through the Holy Spirit**

Through Christ alone we possess both grace and the granting of prayer, that we first become children of God, entitled to call upon Him, and then also receive what we need for ourselves and for others. Therefore wherever there is a Christian, there is none other than the Holy Spirit, who does nothing but pray without ceasing. Even though one does not move one’s lips and form words continuously, one’s heart nonetheless does beat incessantly; and, like the pulse and the heart in the body, it beats with sighs such as these: “Oh, dear Father, please let Thy name be hallowed, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done among us and everyone!” And when blows fall, when temptations thicken, and adversity presses harder, then such sighing prayers become more fervent and also find words. A Christian without prayer is just as impossible as a living person without a pulse. The pulse is never motionless; it moves and beats constantly, whether one is asleep or something else keeps one from being aware of it. – *Luther’s Works: American Edition*, vol. 24, p. 89

### **The Mighty Prayer of a Christian Sigh**

A Christian is always praying, whether he is sleeping or waking; for his heart is always praying, and even a little sigh is a great and mighty prayer. For God says: “For the sighing of the needy, now I will arise saith the Lord” (Psalm 12:5). – *What Luther Says* #3471

### **Pray for the Spiritual Needs of Others**

You would be doing real Christian works if you interested yourself in sinners and went into your private room and earnestly implored God saying: O my God, this is what I hear of so-and-so; that man is lying in sin, and that other one has fallen; O Lord, help him to rise again, etc. – In this way you would assist him and would serve him. – *What Luther Says* #3516



# About Us

## Our Mission

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been serving the Santa Barbara community since 1968. As people who have been redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ, our mission is to: **Grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; **Encourage** one another; and **Proclaim** what we have seen and heard.



## Our Contact Information

770 Vala Drive  
Santa Barbara, California 93111  
(805) 967-1128  
orlcsb.net

## Our Ministry

Sunday Worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Online Broadcast available at our YouTube channel.  
Bible Study: Sundays at 11:00am (starting Aug. 3); Wednesdays at 6:30pm (starting Aug. 6)

## Our Pastor

Pastor Daniel Schroeder  
pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com  
(619) 852-2440

## Our Church Body

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of our Wisconsin Synod and thirty-three other church bodies around the world of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).



Let us know you were here!

