

Service Focus:

Wounds that Heal: The Door Is Very Narrow

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost | August 24, 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).

Are you visiting with us today? Thank you! We love meeting our neighbors and would be grateful for the opportunity to extend our thanks in a more formal way. **Please consider filling out one of the Welcome/Connect cards in the rack in front of you, or scan the QR code** to the right to help us know you better.



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 blue 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 worshiping 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 & dad. Model worship for them.
- 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** during children isn't bad at all it's a reminder to the adults that the next generation of church leaders is already among us.

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 some individual attention to calm them down, an area in the fellowship hall, located just to the left as you exit church, is available. Worship can be watched and heard 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: Wounds That Heal

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon uses a sharp scalpel to cut, not to harm, but to heal. In the same way, words can cut us to the heart—sometimes painfully, yet helpfully.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Knowing he would die there, Jesus urgently spoke truths we need, even when they hurt. We may not like everything he says, but ignoring him risks eternal death. Lets listen and take his words to heart, for though they wound, they are meant to heal our souls.

August 17	Pentecost 10	God's Word Divides
August 24	Pentecost II	The Door Is Very Narrow
August 31	Pentecost 12	Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled
September 7	Pentecost 13	Count the Cost
September 14	Pentecost 14	The Found are Left: the Lost are Found
September 21	Pentecost 15	No One Can Serve Two Masters
September 28	Pentecost 16	What Helps in Life Fails in Death

Service Focus

We often say that words cut us to the heart. Sometimes, however, those words provide the healing wounds we need. This week, Jesus' sharp words remind us that the door to heaven is narrow. It's easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial, external familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns, however, that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. We must make every effort to enter through the narrow door: faith in him.

Prayer before the Service

O Lord, we honor you this day. We have come to your house to hear of your mercy and greatness, and to glorify your name. Bless us with thoughts that are focused on you and your saving work. Fill our hearts with peace as we find rest in you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Audio/Visual Booth: Jim Everson, Josh Schueler

Communion Assistant: Greg Grunewald

Communion Setup & Cleanup: Debbie Aitkins Fellowship: Emily Schroeder, Julie Schroeder

The Service

Welcome

This modern hymn is grounded in the biblical narrative of Hebrews 11 and designed to trace the faith of God's people—from creation and patriarchs to prophets, the church, and today. With its scriptural basis, poetic depth, and stirring melody, the hymn encourages believers to persevere in faith, eyes fixed on God's promises, even when they cannot see the end.



- 4 By faith the church was called to go in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost to deliver captives and to preach good news in ev'ry corner of the earth. (Refrain)
- 5 By faith this mountain shall be moved and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail, for we know in Christ all things are possible for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)

Confession

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

Amen.

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This confession is a recasting of a confession of sins used as early as 1552 in the English-speaking church. We confess our inherited and actual sins and ask God for his forgiveness.

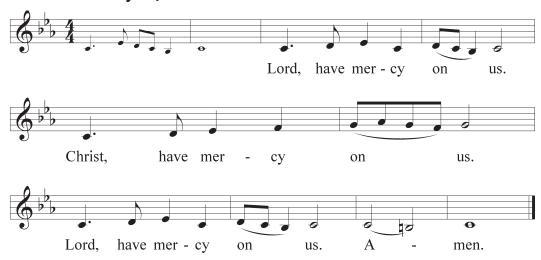
Matthew 28:19

Psalm 32:1

Psalm 32:2

The minister speaks in the first person, as one authorized by Jesus to forgive the penitent in his name. Listeners can be sure that the word of absolution they hear is the Word of Christ. "Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie



Originating in the second century, at first for Christmas Eve, the Gloria became a weekly liturgical hymn by the fourth century. It echoes the angels' announcement of Christ's birth, linking worshippers to the shepherds' awe and the promise of peace through Christ's sacrifice.

Glory Be to God Gloria in Excelsis



The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The proclaimed Word is not human speech about God, but God's own active voice, bringing about what it declares.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Day's corporate nature reminds the church it prays as one body. Today's prayer has been used by Christians in their worship since

The Prayer of the

the 600's AD.

Amen.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

First Reading Isaiah 66:18-24

¹⁸ "And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

¹⁹ "I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD.

²² "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD. ²⁴ "And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind." (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

reject them and perish.

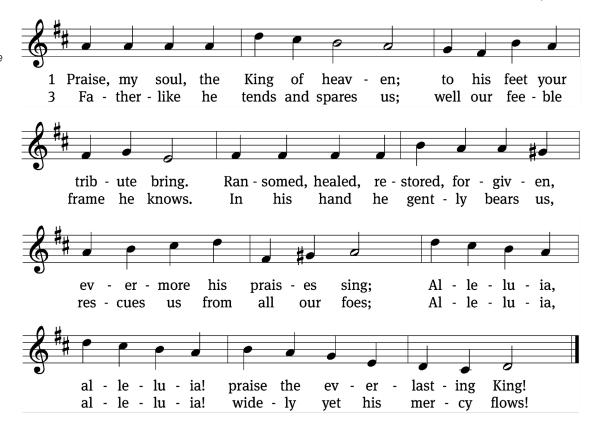
Meanwhile, many who
seemed to be far from
the kingdom will hear
of God's grace, believe,
and be saved.

Many of those closest to God's saving acts will

This simple and concise dialogue is used widely throughout Christendom since medieval times. The Church sings
Psalm 103 in services
that emphasize Jesus
forgiving our sins and
giving us confidence
and strength against the
devil and the world.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103 Christian Worship 621 (st. 1,3)



Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.

Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-24

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

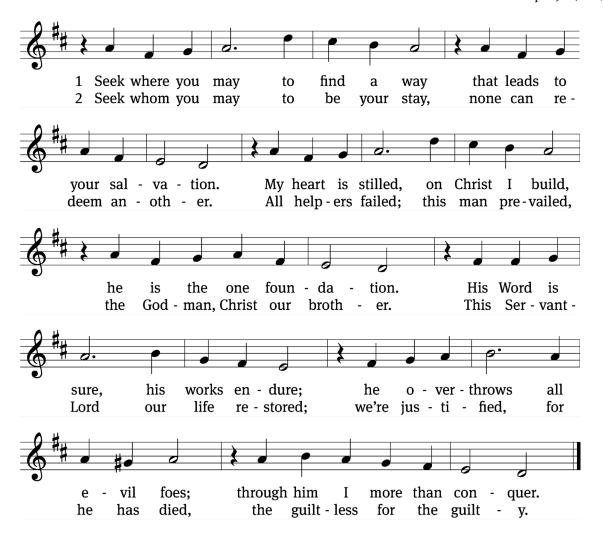
²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Seek Where You May to Find a Way *Christian Worship* 698 (st. 1,2)



The Hymn of the Day is a hymn that relates to the Gospel of the day in some way and often has several hundred years of use in Christendom. Written in 1642 by a Lutheran pastor, this hymn urges Christians to turn from worldly wisdom and false security to Christ alone as Savior. The hymn makes a clear confession of salvation by grace through faith, treasured in Lutheran worship for centuries.

Sermon Luke 13:22-30

"Are Only a Few People Going to be Saved?"

²²Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, ²⁴ "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

²⁶ "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

²⁷ "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

The sermon is the culmination of the Word section of the service. Preaching is one of the main ways that pastors feed, equip, guide, and lead their flock. In addition, the pastor sees the sermon as an opportunity to proclaim the Word of Life to those who are visiting the service as guests.

²⁸ "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." (NIV)

My Christian Life - Only a Few Saved? //

I am the last one God should let into his kingdom. But by his grace in Jesus, he brings me through the narrow door. With thanks, I want to ...

	Pray for a specific person I know who does not believe in Jesus as their Savior. In my prayers, I'll pray that the Spirit might use me to talk to them about Jesus' love and work for them.
	Demonstrate with my words, actions, and attitude that Christ is in my life. In a group this week, I'll keep it on my heart that I want there to be no mistake that I'm part of God's kingdom.
	Ask if I'm agonizing/striving/making a strenuous effort to enter through heaven through Jesus, the narrow door. What's my strenous effort look like to stay with Jesus, knowing its importance?
	Other:
Stai	nd

This catechism portion is the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer and Martin Luther's explanation. In this petition, we are praying to God that the kingdom of Christ will come and remain among us, both in this life and finally on the Last Day. We ask God that we will remain faithful and daily grow in his grace, so that many more will come to Christ's kingdom.

Catechism

Your kingdom come.

What does this mean?

God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Spoken by the Pastor

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 obigated 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 redirected 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 do the same.





We would greatly appreciate it, however, if you would fill out a **Welcome**/ **Connect Card** (located in the rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate 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.

The Sacrament

Our Redeemer practices close communion. We ask, therefore, that only members of this congregation and our fellowship (the Wisconsin Synod) partake of the sacrament. If you are a member of another Lutheran denomination or Christian church and would like to commune with us in the future, please speak with our pastor after the service and he would be delighted to explain what that entails.

The Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

This dialogue (also known as the "Preface") leads into the heart of the Sacrament portion of the service. In its exalted sentences we have the oldest and least changed part of the liturgy. There is evidence of its use in

the 200's AD.

We place the first and best of our offerings on

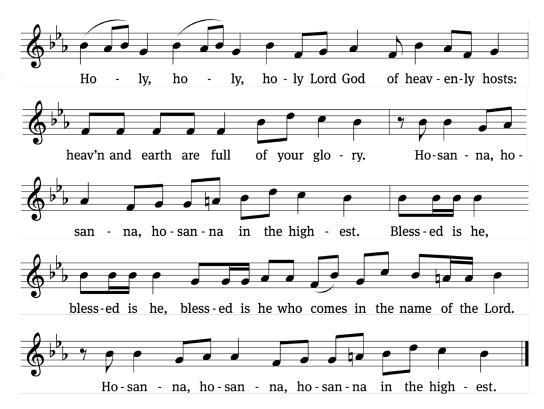
the Lord's altar to be

church at large.

used for his work in the

Sanctus means "holy."
Used possibly as
early as the second
century, this canticle
was in wide use among
Christians in worship by
the fourteenth century.
"Hosanna" means
"Save now!"
See Isaiah 6:3.

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus



The Lord's Prayer is one of the chief ways God trains our faith, because through its petitions, we learn to cling to his promises and rely on his goodness.

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.

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use.

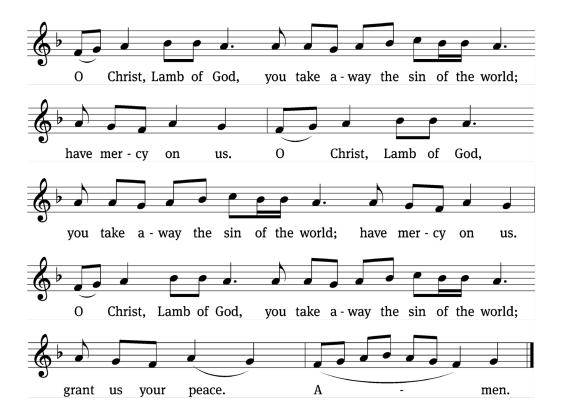
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen.

Lamb of God Agnus Dei



In this ancient song of the church, believers think of their Old Testament counterparts and their Passover celebration. They come to Christ as spiritual beggars. Seeing their own emptiness, they seek fullness and satisfaction only in the Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Be seated

Distribution

For the distribution, please proceed to the left side aisle (closest to the baptismal font). The baptismal font side will proceed first, front to back. The pulpit side will then follow, front to back. Come to the front of church in groups of about 8 people. After the dismissal, proceed toward the stand near the right side aisle with a basket to dispose of the cup in the basket. You may then take your seat.

Questions for Self-Examination before Communion

- Am I sorry for my sins?
- Do I trust Jesus as my Savior?
- Do I believe Jesus' body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?
- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The minister speaks words drawn from Numbers chapter 6 and God's people respond with a single, strong "Amen," a Hebrew word meaning "truth." The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

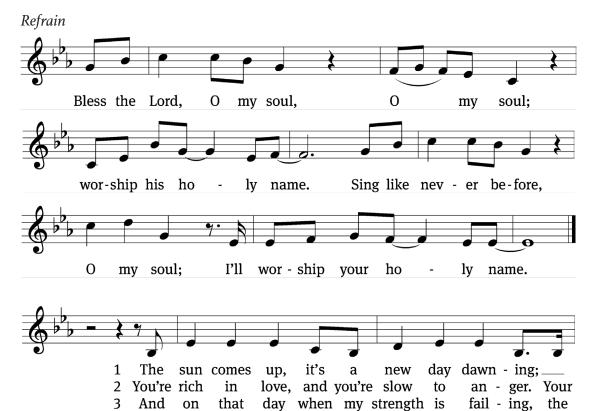
Amen.

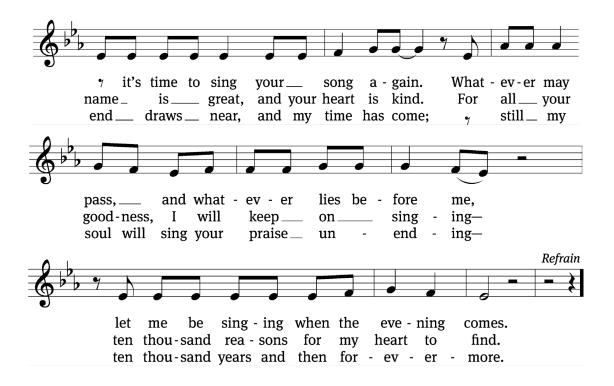
Be seated

Written in 2011, this contemporary hymn is inspired by Psalm 103, calling believers to bless the Lord for his countless mercies and steadfast love. Its simple yet profound chorus made it a global worship favorite, earning two Grammies in 2013. The song's enduring popularity lies in its timeless reminder that God's goodness gives believers "ten thousand reasons" to sing his praise each day.

Closing Hymn

Ten Thousand Reasons Christian Worship 607





Acknowledgments

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Attendance

Sunday Morning Worship (August 17) - 39 Wednesday Evening Bible Study (August 20) - 10

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

August 24, II:00am - Starting Point - Christianity 101 August 27, 6:30pm - Starting Point - Christianity 101

New Hymnals In Use

This summer at Our Redeemer we've been using some of the hymns and liturgies from our new hymnal. We have now purchased new hymnals. Besides making use of these new worship materials, another reason for purchasing the new hymnal is that *Hymnsoft*, our computer music player we use in worship, will soon no longer have technical support for it. *Christian Worship Playlist* is a program available for the new hymnal and will be able to assist us with music in our worship. For those who are wondering, approximately one-third of the 650+ hymns in the 2021 hymnal are new (about 217 hymns), the remaining two-thirds (around 433 hymns) are drawn from the 1993 hymnal (our current red hymnal) and its supplement.

To help fund the purchase of hymnals, we are asking the members of Our Redeemer, and anyone else wishing to participate, to help with purchasing hymnals. We ordered II5 hymnals to have enough for our church pews. The cost for each hymnal is \$28.49, meaning the total cost of purchasing the hymnals is about \$3,775. We've been blessed with a donation to purchase 50 hymnals, so 65 are yet to be covered. Other books that are part of this suite of Christian Worship materials (totaling about\$500) have been donated, so we are also thankful for this gift. Please see the signup sheet in the courtyard for the opportunity to help with this project by purchasing hymnals. Thank you for considering helping with this worship project.

Pictures of Our Redeemer Households

This morning after worship, and other Sundays, Emily Schroeder will be taking pictures of our Our Redeemer family and friends. To help us know one another, we'll be putting the pictures on a bulletin board in the hallway of the fellowship hall. If you and those in your household could get your picture taken, that would be wonderful!

Pastor Out of Town

This week, August 25-27, Pastor Schroeder will be out of town attending the Arizona-California District Missionaries' Conference in Las Vegas. This event brings together about 50 pastors from our district to share ideas about mission work in our congregations. The office hours time scheduled for Wednesday morning will be on Thursday morning this week, 9:30am-12:30pm.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 25. Start planning on whom you will invite to introduce to your church and church family at this fun-filled event.



Managing God's Gifts to Us

Jesus was the master teacher. What did he teach? He taught the gospel. He taught that there is forgiveness and salvation in him, that God's love has been shown to all people in him. That was his message and mission. He and he alone is the door to eternal life. Jesus Christ is our greatest treasure. The gifts God gives us to enjoy and use here on earth are transitory. The gift of salvation through Jesus is a gift that lasts forever. May we use what God gives us here on earth to spread his name so that many might enter the narrow door of heaven. To help be kept informed of finances at Our Redeemer, here is the recent offerings report.

Actual Offerings Budgeted Offerings Difference

Last Week	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
\$1,107	\$8,192	\$92,875
 \$2,600	\$7,800	\$89,102
 (\$1,493)	\$392	\$3,773

Let us know you were here!

