



What Makes Christians *Different*

Service Focus:

Christians Live as Wheat Among Weeds

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost | July 19, 2026



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Pastor Daniel Schroeder
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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 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.

Connect Card



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 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 & dad. Model worship for them.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for active 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 worship 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.

Series Focus - "What Makes Christians Different"

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do, things that make Christians different.

July 5	Festival of Freedom and Friendship	Christians Live in Two Kingdoms
July 12	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Are Planted by the Word
July 19	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Live as Wheat Among Weeds
July 26	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Seek Spiritual Wealth
August 2	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Trust God to Provide
August 9	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Christians Answer Doubt With Faith

Service Focus

Wheat in the Middle East looks much like weeds until harvest, when its head of grain finally appears. Pulling weeds early risks pulling wheat too, so farmers wait for harvest to separate them. Jesus uses this image for life this side of heaven: Christians are wheat, planted by the Lord; unbelieving evildoers are weeds. We may want God to deal with evil now, but he tells us to wait for judgment day's harvest. So we live as wheat among weeds—faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the harvest to come.

Prayer before the Service

Lord of the living harvest, you have planted me, like a precious seed, within the garden of your world. With your Word and blessing you nourish me that I may grow. Make me fruitful, Lord. And while waiting for that harvest, focus my eyes of faith on that Last Day when you will gather me to yourself as one of your precious possessions. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder
Accompanist: John Balge
Choir: Carlos, Ampe, Brandon Bode,
Dan Hoogervorst
Instrumentalists: MARRISSA SCHUELER (guitar),
Linka Schroeder (flute)

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler, Jim Everson
Communion Assistant: Greg Grunewald
Ushers: Matt Ampe, Carl Schueler
Welcome Table: Linka Schroeder
Flowers: Pastor & Linka Schroeder
Communion Setup/Cleanup: MARRISSA SCHUELER

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

God Has Spoken by His Prophets
Christian Worship 639

We need God to speak to us so that the Word may work on our hearts. He did so through prophets long ago; he did so through Jesus, who also has as one of his names the Word; and he does so through his Holy Spirit, who opens our hearts to believe his Word. This mid-20th-century hymn shows us our Triune God's important work of speaking the Word to us.

Stand

Confession

Matthew 28:19

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

Amen.

1 John 1:8,9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

After his resurrection, Jesus promised that when Christians forgive each other's sins, their words are as valid and certain as his. (John 20:22,23)

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.

Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria*

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many half and whole notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer."

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
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Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his

peo - ple on earth.

The Word

Ruth 2:4

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 God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in

perfect joy hereafter; 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

First Reading

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

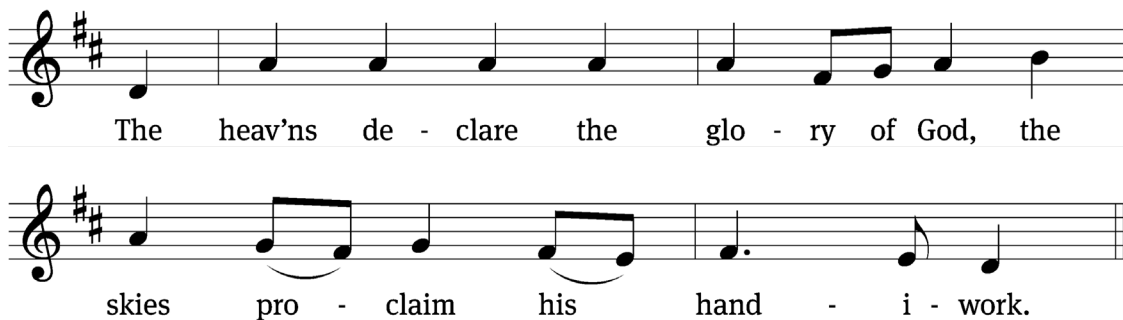
Thanks be to God.

*God is not ambivalent
about evil in the world.
But his wrath will be
fully revealed only at
judgment day.*

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19

Refrain



*The Church sings
Psalm 19 in services
that investigate the
interplay between the
natural knowledge of
God and the revealed
knowledge of his
perfect Word.*

Tone



They have no speech, they / use no words;
no sound is / heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into / all the earth,
their words to the ends / of the world. **Refrain**

The law of the LORD is perfect, refresh- / ing the soul.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light / to the eyes.
They are more precious than gold, than much / pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the / honeycomb.
By them your servant / is warned;
in keeping them there is / great reward. **Refrain**

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Stand

*The Lord has a plan
to separate wheat
and weeds at the final
harvest.*

Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear. (NIV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Come, You Thankful People, Come
Christian Worship 491

This English hymn of thanksgiving was written in 1844 by Henry Alford. He intended the hymn for the English Harvest Festival, which is like the North American Thanksgiving Day. We notice references to God’s spiritual harvest, when he will bring his people into his heavenly home.

Sermon

Isaiah 44:6-11

Like wheat among weeds, Christians live surrounded by evil in this world.

“God’s Got This”

⁶ “This is what the LORD says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come—yes, let them foretell what will come.

⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

⁹ All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless.

Those who would speak up for them are blind;

they are ignorant, to their own shame.

¹⁰ Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit nothing?

¹¹ People who do that will be put to shame; such craftsmen are only human beings.

Let them all come together and take their stand;

they will be brought down to terror and shame. (NIV)

My Christian Life – God's Got This //

I am wheat, not because I am pure, but because my Redeemer bought me. Jesus bore my shame on the cross and rose, so I don't need to tremble. He's got this, and he's got me. In thanks, I want to ...

- ☐ Each morning this week, pray through God's titles—King, Redeemer, Lord Almighty, the First and the Last—thanking him by name for each.
- ☐ Read all of Isaiah 44 this week and journal the one verse that most comforts me about God's sovereignty.
- ☐ Write “apart from me there is no God” on a card where I'll see it daily, as a check against divided loyalties.
- ☐ Other: _____

Stand

We confess our faith using excerpts from the Augsburg Confession, a confession of the Lutheran church from 1530.

Confession of Faith

Our churches teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, assumed the human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So there are two natures—the divine and the human—inseparably joined in one person. There is one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried. He did this to reconcile the Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of mankind.

He also descended into hell, and truly rose again on the third day. Afterward, he ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. There he forever reigns and has dominion over all creatures. He sanctifies those who believe in him, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts to rule, comfort, and make them alive. He defends them against the devil and the power of sin.

The same Christ will openly come again to judge the living and the dead, and so forth, according to the Apostles' Creed.

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 this morning**, we are so glad you're here! Please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. If you'd like to give, you may place a gift in the offering plate near the doors or **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone. We understand you may want to learn more about us first, and that's completely okay.



After hearing God's holy Word, the congregation gathers its offerings of thanks. We place our offerings on the Lord's altar to be used for his work here in our congregation and through our church body.

Connect Card



We would love it if you'd fill out a Welcome/Connect Card (located in the rack in front of you) and place it in the offering plate after the service — or scan the QR code to the left to connect with us online.

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 A.D.

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*



"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.

God of might. Heav-en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

All of our requests, all of 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.

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.**

Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

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*

*Jesus is God's Lamb
(Agnus Dei), who was
offered as a sacrifice
for sin once for all.
See John 1:29 and
Isaiah 53:7.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Be seated

Distribution

For the distribution, at the direction of the usher, please proceed to the outside aisle of your side of the church. 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 your group is dismissed, proceed to the center aisle, dispose of the cup in the basket, and return to 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

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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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."*

Blessing

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.

Closing Hymn

Let All Things Now Living
Christian Worship 507

"Let All Things Now Living" pairs a joyful text of thanksgiving by American composer Katherine K. Davis (also known for "The Little Drummer Boy") with the beloved Welsh folk melody THE ASH GROVE. Davis's words call all creation—and us—to praise the God who has made, protected, and guided us "from light into light."

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from *Christian Worship*. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 743037. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under OneLicense no. 743037. All rights reserved. ... **Psalm 19** - Tune: Benedetto Marcello; arr. John F. Wilson © 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Setting: © 2010 World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 743037

Attendance

Sunday Worship (July 12) - 46

Our Redeemer News

Martin Luther College Congregational Partner Grant

Praise God — we exceeded our \$1,750 goal! Thanks to your generosity, \$3,000 was given, and MLC matched \$1,750 of it dollar for dollar, bringing Carlos Ampe a total of \$4,250 toward his tuition. Thank you for investing in his training for gospel ministry, and for your continued prayers and encouragement as he prepares to serve the Lord’s church.



Pastor Out of Town

Pastor Schroeder will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 21, through August 7. His brother, Pastor Andrew Schroeder of California Lutheran Academy, will serve as guest preacher the two Sundays he’s away — July 26 and August 2.



Managing God’s Gifts to Us

The Lord reminds us that he is God, the only God. There is none other. Only he created all things. Only he saves from sin. How foolish and futile it is for us to place our trust in anyone or anything other than him. To do so is idolatry, a sin for which we must repent and receive forgiveness in Jesus. May we look on all that God has given us as wonderful blessings to use for his honor and service. To help be kept informed of finances to carry out our ministry plans at Our Redeemer, here is the recent offerings report.

	Last Week	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Actual Offerings	\$4,155	\$5,784	\$104,413
Budgeted Offerings	\$3,124	\$5,677	\$88,188
Difference	\$1,031	\$107	\$16,225

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 Studies: Sundays at 11:00am; Wednesdays at 7:00pm (both resume in August)
Starting Point/Christianity 101 classes: Thursdays at 6:30pm (resumes in August)

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 1,200 plus churches of our Wisconsin Synod and 33 other church bodies around the world of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC).



Let us know you were here!

