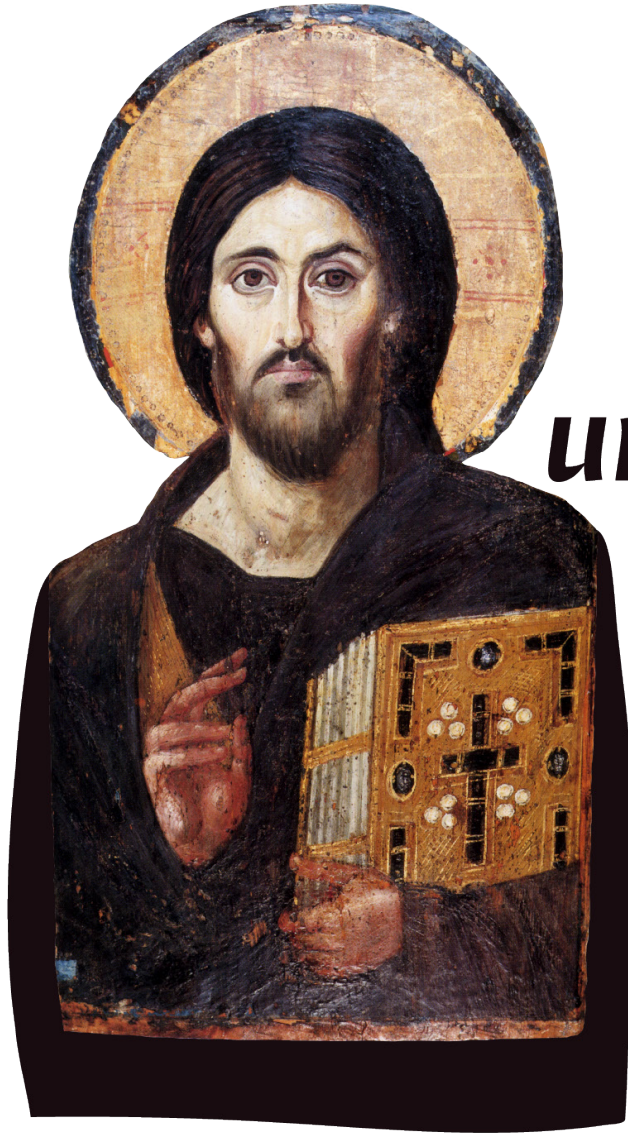




unexpected **TRUTHS**

Service Focus:

Cross Comes Before Crown

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | August 30, 2026



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

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

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 bags for children to use during the service are on the hooks on the back wall of church.

Series Focus - "Unexpected Truths"

The Declaration of Independence boldly asserts that certain truths are "self-evident"—accessible to reason and widely recognized by observation. Lutherans note, however, that the Bible's most important truths are not self-evident at all. They often appear surprising, even contrary to human expectations. Biblical truth is revealed by God, not discovered by reason alone. What seems obvious to human judgment and what God reveals in Scripture are often quite different.

August 16	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	The Church is for All People
August 23	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Son of Man is God
August 30	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Cross Comes Before Crown
September 6	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	I Am My Brother's Keeper
September 13	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Forgiveness is for Me
September 20	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Grace is Amazing
September 27	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Real Repentance Looks Different

Service Focus

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have to bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers. Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Prayer before the Service

Lord Jesus, you were lifted high upon the cross so that you might bring the whole world to yourself. When I look at your cross, I'm reminded of what you did to bring me the glory of heaven. Help me today to glory in your call to take up my cross and follow you. I pray this in your name. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operartort: Al Todd

Instrumentalist: Linka Schroeder (flute); Marrissa Schueler (guitar)

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler, Jim Everson

Usher: Lance Schroeder

Welcome Table: Linka Schroeder

Flowers: Jim and Margaret Brown

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near
Christian Worship 867

This hymn was written in 1782 by English pastor John Fawcett, offering comfort from Scripture that Christ supplies strength for every trial. In 2018, Constance Dever refreshed the hymn with a new refrain and tune, giving it renewed congregational appeal while preserving its timeless message of hope and reliance on Christ.

Stand

Confession

Matthew 28:19

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

Amen.

Psalms 32:1,2

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.

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

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

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.

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

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 on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes with some ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The score concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to A major (two sharps) for the final note.

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. 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Prayer of the Day (Collect) is a brief, focused prayer offering a single unified petition that reflects the theme of the day's Scripture. This prayer today is similar in content to a longer prayer from the 11th century in England.

Be seated

Children's Devotion

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;

think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them;

I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?

You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me;

if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you but will not overcome you,

for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD.

²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked

and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.” (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

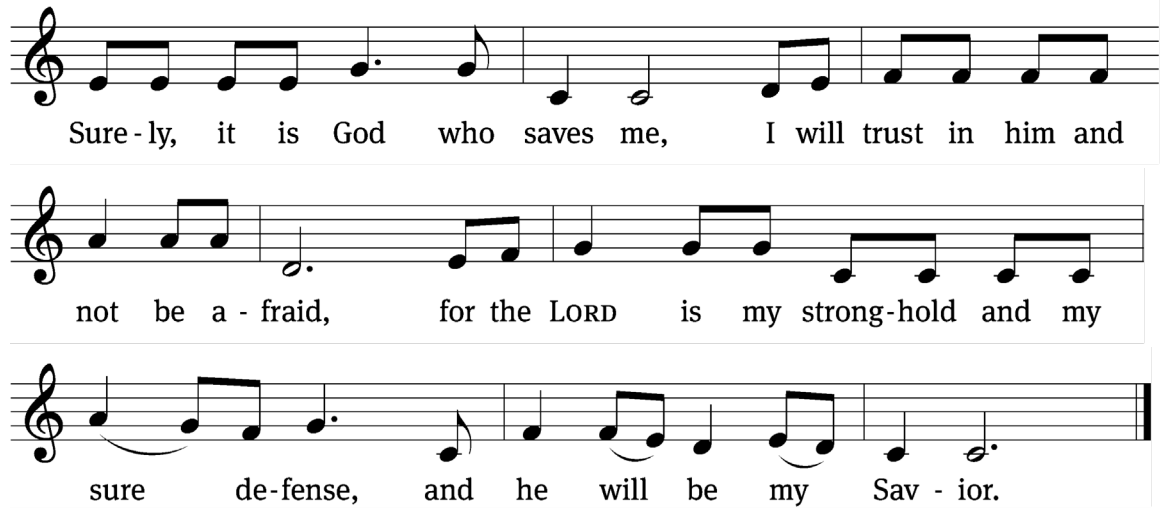
Thanks be to God.

The Church sings
Psalm 31 in services
that feature bearing
the cross, whether
Jesus in his passion
or Christians taking
up their crosses and
following him.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 31

Refrain



Sure - ly, it is God who saves me, I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid, for the LORD is my strong-hold and my
sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

**In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
Be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.
My times are in your hands;
save me in your unfailing love. *Refrain (sung twice)***

Stand

Jesus calls his Church
to walk in his path. First
comes the cross, then
comes the crown.

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul. (NIV)

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken
Christian Worship 694

This early 19th-century English hymn models for us how a mature Christian anticipates and appropriates suffering here on earth. The hymn takes us on a journey from Jesus' call to follow him, to the hard yet joyful road of the Christian life, to a taste of the blissful repose awaiting us just over the horizon. These lines put the sweet ups and painful downs of life in this age in the context of God's overarching story, precious promises, and ever-present help.

Sermon

Romans 8:18-25

*No cross can compare
with the crown of glory
that is waiting.*

“Groaning with Hope”

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (NIV)

My Christian Life - Groaning with Hope //

Because Jesus carried his cross to redeem and raise me, my heart is anchored in hope; his Spirit empowers me to endure until glory. In thanks, I can ...

- ☐ Dismantle the “paradise illusion” in my daily surroundings, refusing to demand perfect satisfaction from my spouse, job, or home, since I know this world is not my permanent home.
- ☐ Refuse to let physical pain or exhaustion drive me to despair this week, seeing these struggles as birth pains of a restored creation, not meaningless decay.
- ☐ Sit with a suffering friend or neighbor and truly listen to their pain, skipping empty platitudes, and gently reminding them that the glory ahead will make today's trials feel light.
- ☐ Other: _____

Stand

The Apostles' Creed is a concise statement of apostolic truths used in worship to confess faith communally. Though not directly from the apostles, this confession has been used in the Christian Church for almost two thousand years.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Spoken by the Pastor

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.

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.

Offering



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.

Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus *Christian Worship 704 (st. 1-3)*

Sigmund von Birken was the son of a Lutheran pastor in Bohemia in the late 1600's. Because of religious persecution, his family was forced to flee to Nürnberg when he was three. Birken was an established poet and was appointed a tutor at the age of 16 to the Princes of Brunswick-Lüneburg. His poetic skills led to the publication of 52 hymns. However, only three of them have been translated into English. The most prominent of these hymns is Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus. Another of his hymns is the Lent hymn Jesus, I Will Ponder Now.

Closing Prayer

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

The Lord's Prayer was given by our Savior to his Church in response to the disciples' request to be taught to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13.

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.

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. See Numbers 6:24-26.

Closing Hymn

What God Ordains Is Always Good *Christian Worship 844*

Samuel Rodigast wrote this poem in 1675 to comfort his dying friend Severus Gastorius, who believed he was on his deathbed. Gastorius was so comforted by the words that upon recovery, he set them to music and requested that it be sung at his funeral. Its stanzas confess that whatever God sends, in joy or sorrow, comes from a Father's hand and is therefore always good (Romans 8:28).

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 31 - Tune: Jack Noble White © 1976 H. W. Gray Company. All rights assigned to and owned by Jubilate Music Group, LLC. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 743037

Attendance

Sunday Worship (August 23) - 49

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

Thursday, September 3, 7:00pm - “Starting Point/Christianity 101”

Sunday Bible Study - September 6, 11:00am - “Lessons from the Lives of Powerful Politicians”

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - September 9, 7:00pm - “Colossians: Christ Reigns Supreme”



Connect Groups Fair - Today

After worship today and before our Bible study hour, we will have our Connect Groups Fair. Various study, service, and social groups will be starting next month. Look at this session's (September - November) Connect Groups Offerings and sign up for a group or groups that interest you or you want to try.

Managing God's Gifts to Us

Christian stewardship stands out in bold all the way through Jesus' words! His call to his disciples goes beyond our tithes to our very lives. Before our money or anything else, he desires our hearts, our will, our self. The resulting struggle is the cross he promises to every Christian. Life can never be found in the empty promises of this world but in Christ alone. 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	\$2,940	\$15,341	\$125,004
Budgeted Offerings	\$3,124	\$12,496	\$106,529
Difference	\$184	\$2,845	\$18,475

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	August 30	9:30am	Sunday Worship
			Connect Groups Fair
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Study (New Series Begins!)
Monday-Tuesday	Pastor attending AZ-CA District Missionary's Gathering (in Las Vegas)		
Thursday	September 3	11:00am	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (Individual)
		7:00pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101
Sunday	September 6	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Lord's Supper)
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Study



Connect Groups

In August, Our Redeemer is launching a new program called Connect Groups. We see Connect Groups as a vital part of our ministry at Our Redeemer because we want to do more than be a friendly church. We want to be a church of friends. Connect Groups are where friendships are made.

Connect Groups are the aspect of our ministry that is almost entirely led and conducted by the congregation. The pastor does not run the Connect Groups, nor does he even plan the Connect Groups. He will provide a little training for Connect Group leaders. But for the most part, this is pure

member ministry. Connect Group leaders choose how often they want their group to get together—monthly, twice-a-month, or weekly.

The main purpose of Connect Groups is to knit the people of Our Redeemer together so that they might share their lives as God's Word directs them to. Sharing of one's life can certainly happen in a Bible study, but it can happen in other ways as well. Thus, we have three types of Connect Groups:

- **STUDY GROUPS**—meet to study, discuss, and apply God's Word

Study Groups are comprised of Christians who want to gather for the spiritual study produced by Bible study and devotion. Study Group members take portions of God's Word and apply them to their lives. There is no "teacher" in Study Groups. There is a facilitator who keeps discussion moving and focused on the topic of the day. Pastor Schroeder will help you find appropriate and meaningful Bible study materials and help you prepare if you want to facilitate a study group.

- **SERVICE GROUPS**—identify ways to serve the church or specific people or groups

Service Groups are comprised of Christians who want to serve either Our Redeemer Church or the community in some way. These groups are looking for ways to let their light shine. Some examples of Service Groups are groups that get together to: meet at an assisted living center to socialize with the residents; gather a group of young people to meet at elderly or sick members' homes to do yard work; assist the homeless at a shelter or in some other way; do maintenance work or projects around our campus; help those of the congregation who need some light repair work or fixes at their homes; serve food and drinks after worship; set up and be present at the welcome table on Sunday mornings; serve the church in song; take care of the banners, altar area, and communion setup for worship.

- **SOCIAL GROUPS**—meet to enjoy recreational fellowship

Social Groups are comprised of Christians who want to gather for some recreational fellowship. Some examples of Social Groups are groups that get together to: play golf once a month; discuss a book that the entire group has read; shop, talk, go out to eat, or just get together; meet with other moms and kids at local parks; walk, ride bikes, kayak, go to the beach, or shoot at a shooting range; play instruments and have a jam session.

After worship today and before our Bible study, we will have our Connect Groups Fair. Various study, service, and social groups will be starting next month. Look at this session's (September - November) Connect Groups Offerings and sign up for a group or groups that interest you or you want to try.



LESSONS FROM THE LIVES OF POWERFUL POLITICIANS

Lincoln, Roosevelt, Reagan—powerful politicians from history. However, nearly four hundred years before them, powerful politicians impacted the church during the Lutheran Reformation. In this study, you'll see God's powerful Word work across centuries—in the early church, in the lives of political figures from Luther's day, and in Christian lives today. Join us to dig into Scripture, interact with your Lutheran heritage, and deepen your understanding of those God used to shape his church today.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall

August 30	The Miracle of Wittenberg (Frederick the Wise)
September 6	God Works Through Politics on Behalf of His Word (Emperor Charles V and King Francis I)
September 13	Taking a Stand for the Gospel (John the Steadfast)
September 20	God Is Able to Remove Opposition (Duke George the Bearded & Duke Henry the Pious)
September 27	An Unwavering Faith (John Frederick the Magnanimous)
October 4	Willing to Compromise (Landgrave Philip of Hesse)
October 11	The Judas of Meissen (Duke Maurice of Saxony)
October 18	Prince of the Church (Pope Leo X)



2026–2027 kids c.a.r.e. Supports 100 Missions in 10 Years

We announced at the 63rd Annual LWMS Convention in Madison that the 2026–2027 kids c.a.r.e. project will support the WELS Home Missions goal to start 100 new churches in 10 years across North America.

The fall curriculum resources teach the story of Samuel hearing from God in the tabernacle. Similar to new church mission starts, the tabernacle was not a permanent building for worship. This Old Testament story is taught in an interactive style and provided in three different teaching levels, from Pre-K through 8th grade. Abundant supporting materials allow you to customize the kids c.a.r.e. project to teach children in a variety of settings—at school, in church, or in your own home. Materials include a coloring page, tracking thermometer, as well as age-appropriate crafts, activities, and songs. All of these materials are free for download at lwms.org/kidscare.

Look for additional resources and promotional materials in February as we celebrate kids c.a.r.e. month.

If you are turning in kids c.a.r.e. boxes, please turn them in at Our Redeemer on September 13. Any questions, please speak with Sonja Todd.

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 (Wednesday resumes September 9)
Starting Point/Christianity 101 classes: Thursdays at 7:00pm

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!

