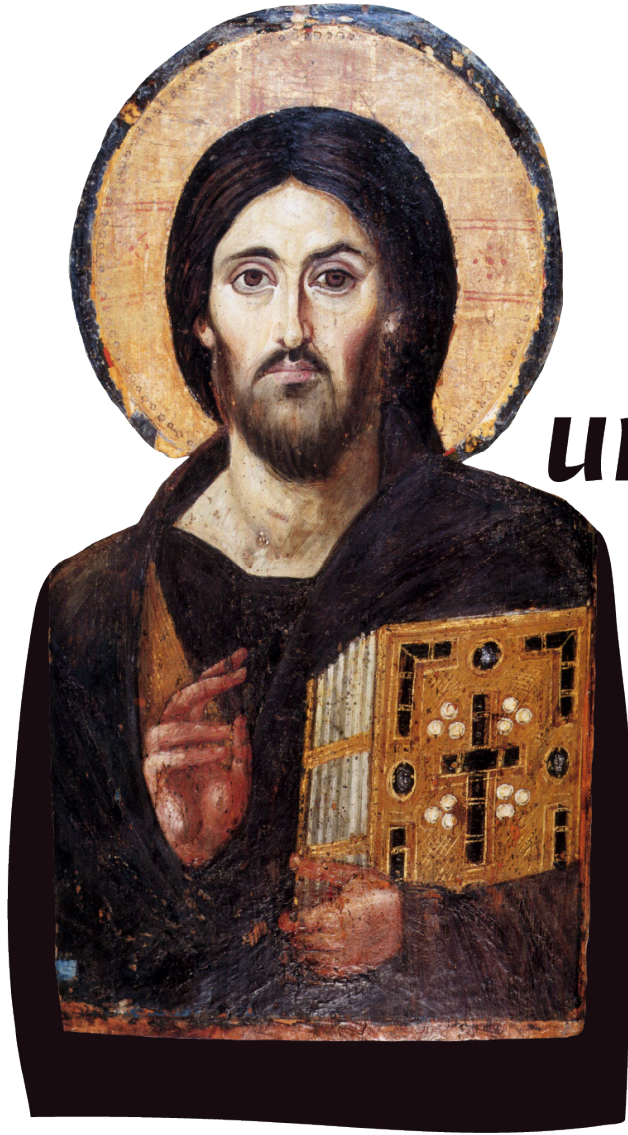




unexpected **TRUTHS**

Service Focus:

Real Repentance Looks Different

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 27, 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

It might be expected for someone to look sorry when they are caught doing something wrong. You might even see tears and hear words of apology. But you might not be surprised if the shock of being caught wears off and so does the intensity of the repentance.

Real repentance looks different. God doesn't want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorry over sin. It might be unexpected, but God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

Prayer before the Service

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the deep love you showed me on the cross. Help me to show my love for you and for those around me by listening to you: by daily turning my mind to your word so that I know what you desire for me. How can I know and do what you want if I do not listen to you? Thank you for your word. In your saving name I pray, Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Instrumentalists: Linka Schroeder (flute), Marrissa Schueler (guitar)

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler, Jim Everson

Usher: Erle Pettus

Welcome Table: Julie Schroeder

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This
Christian Worship 526

This early 19th-century American folk hymn of anonymous authorship reflects on the astonishing love of Christ shown in his suffering and death for sinners. With its simple, repeated question in the first stanza—"What wondrous love is this?"—this repetition is not the sign of a weak poet who has a narrow range of expression, but a fellow traveler who has experienced profoundly the sacrificial love of Christ and can only express again and again "What wondrous love is this."

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.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Christ, have mer - cy on us.

Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

Having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy.

Throughout the service, titles like Kyrie and Gloria in Excelsis refer to the historic names for the ancient texts of the Church's liturgy.

Glory to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

Glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace, peace, peace, 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: "Glory be to God on high."

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 God the Fa - ther: re -

rit.

ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

a tempo

Glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and

peace, peace, peace, 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.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and

peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

Ruth 2:4

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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 helps the worshipers focus on a central theme drawn from the readings of the day. This prayer has been used by Christians in their worship since about 750 AD.

*Be seated***d**

Children's Devotion

First Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we seek to imitate the humility of Jesus.

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Church sings
Psalm 25 in services
that encourage a Christian life of repentance
and faith.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25



1 I lift my soul to you, LORD, I trust, O God, in you.
2 Your cov - e - nant and mer - cy are with me all my days

Send forth your truth to guide me, and teach me what to do.
to com - fort and to bless me, to keep me in your ways.

Re - mem - ber your great mer - cy, your ev - er - last - ing love;
When - ev - er I look up - ward, I find you wait - ing there,

for - give me, God, my Sav - ior, my guilt and sin re - move.
to bear me and to keep me all safe be - neath your care.

Stand

Sincere love for God
involves not just saying
what God wants to hear
but doing what God
wants done.

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him. (NIV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Sinners Does Receive
Christian Worship 654 (st. 1-4)

Written by a Lutheran pastor in the early 1700's, this hymn was originally written as the conclusion to a sermon preached on Luke 15:1-10.

Sermon

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

A strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin.

“God Ends the Blame Game”

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“ ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

³ “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴ For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. ³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! (NIV)

My Christian Life – God Ends the Blame Game //

I ate the sour grapes of my own sin, but Jesus took all my blame to the cross. He drank the bitter cup for me so my teeth will never be set on edge in hell. Because my Savior has given me a new heart and a new spirit, I gladly drop my excuses, turn from my sin, and live for him. In thanks, I can ...

- ☐ Own my part. When I catch myself saying “It’s not my fault,” I’ll pause, take a breath, and gently ask myself, “What part of this is mine?” I don’t have to be afraid of the answer, because Jesus already carried my blame.
- ☐ Practice true daily repentance. I’ll carry a small cross in my pocket. When a familiar temptation pulls at me, I’ll hold that cross and let it remind me that repentance isn’t just feeling bad. It’s a Spirit-worked turn away from sin and back toward the Savior who died for me.
- ☐ Refuse the lie that I’m stuck. When Satan whispers that I’m trapped by my past habits or that I’m just “born this way,” I’ll stop listening to him and listen to my Savior instead. Jesus has already broken sin’s hold on me, so with his Spirit living in me I am free to turn from sin and live.
- ☐ Other: _____

Stand

Today we speak together the words Luther added to his Small Catechism in 1531, when he kept private confession as a comfort for troubled consciences and set aside the medieval rules that required listing every sin and doing works of satisfaction. In them we learn to see our sins in the mirror of the Ten Commandments and to confess them honestly, and then to hear the absolution with confidence as God’s own word of forgiveness in Christ.

Catechism

*Confession
from Martin Luther’s Small Catechism*

First: What is confession?

Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.

Second: What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer. But before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Third: How can we recognize these sins?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, or employee? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you hurt anyone by word or deed? Have you been dishonest, careless, wasteful, or done other wrong?

Fourth: How will the pastor assure a penitent sinner of forgiveness?

He will say, “By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Be seated

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.

Hymn

Lord, Have Mercy
Christian Worship 652

A modern hymn rooted in the ancient Kyrie, "Lord, Have Mercy" expresses a heartfelt confession of sin and a plea for God's compassion. It leads worshipers to trust in Christ, whose perfect life and saving work assure us that God's mercy is greater than all our sin.

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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,**

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.

**and the glory are yours
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

Oh, How Good It Is
Christian Worship 731

*This modern hymn from Getty Music Publishing was inspired by Psalm 133.
It celebrates the unity and love within the family of God and highlights
the joy and strength found in Christian community.*

Acknowledgments

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Attendance

Sunday Worship (September 20) - 56
Sunday Bible Study (September 20) - 19
Bible Studies During the Week - 14

Our Redeemer News

Upcoming Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

Sunday, September 27, 11:00am - Sunday Bible Study - "Lessons from the Lives of Powerful Politicians"

Sunday, October 4, 11:00am - Sunday Bible Study - "Great Chapters of the Bible: Philippians 3"

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00pm - Midweek Bible Study - "Colossians: Christ Reigns Supreme"

Pastor Out of Town

Pastor and Linka will be out of town from Wednesday, September 30, through Sunday, October 4. They're traveling to visit their sons, Levi and Philip, and Philip's family, and they'll be attending Levi's soccer team's Parents' Day. They return Monday, October 5. Former pastor at Our Redeemer and now retired Pastor Steve Degner will be preaching and leading the Bible study next Sunday.

Befriend a Missionary - 25th Anniversary

One of our missionaries in the "Befriend a Missionary" program that our congregation is supporting with encouragements, prayers, and gifts is Pastor Joel Heckendorf from our mission in Reno, Nevada. Pastor Heckendorf is celebrating his 25th anniversary in the pastoral ministry. If you would like to pass along a card and/or gifts, please turn it in at church today so we can send them to him. Pastor Heckendorf is not only one of our WELS home missionaries, but he also serves as the district president of our Arizona-California District of our church body, a very big responsibility.

Managing God's Gifts to Us

Through Ezekiel, the Lord issues a strong call to repentance, warning Israel that unrepentant sin leads to eternal death. Yet he promises that the wicked who turn from their wickedness will live! Many today need this same warning. May we who have taken it to heart use our talents, treasures, and resources to share it and God's promise with others. 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	\$6,725	\$13,355	\$137,372
Budgeted Offerings	\$3,124	\$9,025	\$119,048
Difference	\$3,601	\$4,330	\$18,324

This Week at Our Redeemer

Sunday	September 27	9:30am	Sunday Worship
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Study
Monday	September 28	7:00pm	Handbells' Practice
Tuesday	September 29	5:15pm	Starting Point/Christianity 101 (Individual)
Thursday	October 1	10:00am	GriefShare Group
Sunday	October 4	9:30am	Sunday Worship (Lord's Supper)
		11:00am	Sunday Bible Study



Fall FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
4:00 – 6:00 PM

TRUNK OR TREAT, PUMPKIN CARVING
FACE PAINTING, CHILI COOK-OFF
PIE CONTEST & MORE!

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
770 Vala Drive | Santa Barbara



www.orldcsb.net

LA Circuit of the AZCA District of the WELS

celebrates a

Joint Reformation Service



St Paul's First Lutheran Church

5244 Tujunga Ave

North Hollywood, CA 91601

Sunday, October 25 - 4:00 p.m.

**Speaker: MLC Professor
Paul Koelpin**

**Special Music provided by
Adult Choir & Children's Choir**

Fellowship Meal to Follow

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
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!

