

St. Peters Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
September 2022



316 S. Main Ave. / P.O. Box 125
Wentworth, SD 57075-0125

Office Phone: 605-483-3129

Pastor's cell: 307-221-1256

Church e-mail: stpeter@itctel.com

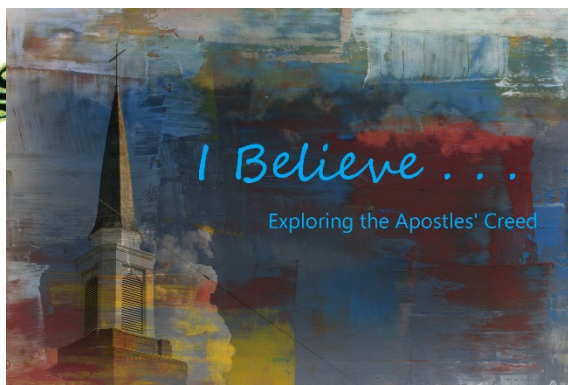
Pastor's e-mail: adwelton@gmail.com

Website: www.stpeterswentworth.com

Our Mission Statement:

**"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done."**

Psalms 105:1



Credo: Redemption

We have talked about and answered the question of Jesus, “Who do you say I am?” Knowing the identity of Jesus is only part of what we need to know. The rest of what we need to know comes in the work of Jesus. The question would be ‘What did Jesus do?’ If we believe in Jesus to be true man and true God in the flesh we should want to know why He came into the flesh.

The answer is Redemption. Redemption means the recovery of something lost. To understand the work of Christ we have to understand our current state. We are lost to God because of our sins. It is not that God has lost us, but that we have lost the ability to enter into the presence of God. More we no longer belonged to life but death. For this reason, we needed to be redeemed.

This redemption comes at a price. The price is so steep none of us can pay it. Even if we are to shed our blood for ourselves or others it is not enough to redeem us from slavery to sin and death. In short, we have nothing, not our wealth, not our health, not our life which is enough to redeem us from sin. We need something greater if we are going to be redeemed out of death and hell.

Here is where Christ comes into the picture. Christ can redeem you from sin and death. From the wrath of God because of your

sin. Christ lived the perfect life and now can pay the price for your sins and the sins of all people there on the cross when He dies. This leads us to the price of sin.

Luther in the Small Catechism writes, “[Jesus my Lord] who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” It is not with earthly created things Jesus redeems the world from sin. It is not with the things the world finds to be valuable that Jesus redeems the world from sin. It is only with His blood that Jesus redeems the world from sin.

It is with His innocent suffering and death where His blood was shed that Jesus redeemed you and now has purchased you back from death to life. From sin to holiness. From eternal damnation to eternal life. Because Jesus has redeemed you with His blood you are no longer lost. You are no longer unable to enter into the holy presence of God. Instead, you are now a member of the kingdom of God, belonging to God, because He has purchased you with the blood of Christ.

This is the work of Christ. What we have just talked about is all wrapped up in the little word redemption. It sums up the work of Christ taking on flesh and blood in His birth by the Virgin Mary and then giving and shedding that blood on the cross. There Christ completed the work He was sent to do by the Father and you now live as one who belongs to God and has the hope and peace of eternal life.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Welton



Did You Know?

You may have seen the 1986 hit movie "Crocodile Dundee," but did you know that the main character may have been based on a Latvian? It is widely believed that the main character played by Australian actor Paul Hogan, was inspired by none other than Latvian born Arvīds Blūmentāls (or Crocodile Harry as he was known in Australia). Born in a small town near Rīga named Dundaga in 1925, Blūmentāls moved to Australia in 1951 and spent years hunting crocs in Queensland. He would later remark that he had to leave Latvia due to the mass deportations enforced by the Soviets after World War II.



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cory.rajek@lcms.org

Divine Service in English Comes to Rīga



A picture of the altar area of Svētā Jāņa Evāņģēliski Luteriskā Baznīca (or St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church). On August 7, 2022, the Divine Service in English returned after a 2 year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On August 7, 2022, an important event took place at St. John's Lutheran Church in Old Town, Rīga. After a two-year hiatus, the Divine Service in English returned to that sacred space, a collaboration between Latvian Pastor Gints Graudiņš and me. I would like to thank Dr. Charles Cortright and Dr. John Bombaro (my predecessors in Rīga) for laying the foundation for the English service years ago. Unfortunately, the events surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic put an end to those efforts. Now that all of Latvia has opened up and tourism season is upon us, we thought it right to begin these services again.

Some may wonder, why start the Divine Service in English? The

purpose is to share the message of Jesus Christ to all the tourists and would-be English speakers in Rīga, Latvia. The English language has become a universal language of sorts the world over. With many tourists coming to see the sights of Rīga, we want to make the most of the opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank Pastor Graudiņš and the members of Rīgas Sv. Jāņa Baznīca (St. John Church of Rīga) for their willingness to partner with us in making this mission outreach opportunity a reality. You can read more about the Divine Service in English on St. John's website (<https://www.janabaznica.lv/worship-service-in-english/>).

Why Do Lutherans Say “Divine Service”?

With the Divine Service in English starting up in Riga, I thought it fitting to write about why Lutherans use the term “Divine Service.” Indeed, people will often use the term “worship” to describe what happens at church. The word itself is from the old English “worthship” which was used to ascribe true worth to something. In the case of God, the word would be used to ascribe true worth to God. Perhaps you can see the dilemma this word creates toward a Lutheran-biblical theology. First, who are we to attempt to ascribe “worth” to God? Second, the Bible states, “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:3 ESV) Therefore, true worship cannot be offered unless God creates the faith in us to want to worship Him. Furthermore, God as God needs nothing from us including our

worship. On the contrary, if we are to live, we need something from Him, namely His favor. And that’s the purpose of the Divine Service.

The German word, *Gottesdienst* is translated literally as Divine Service. Likewise, the word liturgy, which is often referred to as synonym for Divine Service, comes from a Greek word for service. Notice the contrast between the words “worship” and “Divine Service.” Whereas “worship” implies ascribing true worth to something or someone (our action) verses “Divine Service” which implies the Divine God serving someone (God’s action). In this way, Divine Service works well with our Lutheran theology which states that, when it comes to salvation, we do nothing. God does everything!

And, of course, this is the purpose of the Divine Service. God comes to us through Word and Sacraments to serve us, just as He did by taking on our flesh, living a perfect life in our place, dying our death on the cross, rising on the third day and ascending into heaven where He rules all things for the good of His church.

In the Smalcald Articles (III, XII) of the Lutheran Confessions, Martin Luther wrote,



A picture inside beautiful St. John's in Riga, Latvia.

“Thank God, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is, namely holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd.” I can’t help but think Luther had John 10:27-28 in mind when he wrote this. There Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.” (ESV) Since we cannot go back in time to receive the gifts of the cross (i.e., forgiveness, life and salvation), God delivers the gifts of the cross to us through ordinary means. The Augsburg Confession (VII) defines the church as “the assembly of saints in which the Gospel is taught purely and the Sacraments are administered rightly.” In other words, the church is defined as the place where God’s people receive God’s gifts through God’s means of grace. The focus here being on God who comes to serve His people by forgiving their sins and giving everlasting life. This, then, is why we say “Divine Service”.



Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (Rom. 12:12 ESV)

PLEASE PRAY:

- For all who are struggling financially due to higher prices on goods.
- For Luther Academy in Riga that God would continue to bless our outreach efforts.
- For the students and faculty of Luther Academy as we gear up for the fall semester.
- For my daughter, Emiley, as she adjusts to life back in the states without her mom, dad, and sister.

GIVE THANKS:

- For the staff of OIM who have incredibly supportive during this time of transition for my family and especially, Emiley.
- For the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us in this important mission.

PRAISE GOD:

- For the partnership we have with faithful churches throughout the world, especially the Latvian Lutheran church.

Family and Ministry Update



L to R: Lexi, Emiley, Jenny and Cory

Two major topics have consumed much of my time this past month. The first was helping Emiley prepare for life back in the United States without her mom and dad and the second was preparing for the upcoming school year at Luther Academy.

Realizing that Emiley had a short time left on the mission field, we tried to spend as much time experiencing the things that Latvia has to offer before her big move. Emiley loves art so we spent a Saturday taking her to the Latvian

National Art Museum, among other things. Then, the end of July-beginning of August was spent escorting her back to grandma and grandpa's home back in the U.S. and saying our goodbyes. This is her first time away from us and I almost think it has been more of an adjustment for us than it has been for her. Yet, we take comfort in the fact that she is with family and kept securely in the hands of a loving Savior. Our hope is to be able to see her again sometime around Christmas.

As for Luther Academy, I have been involved in meetings as we prepare for another new school year. All in all, things have been going well and we continue to amazed at God's blessings.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your support of the Lord's mission in Eurasia. We could not be touching peoples' lives with the message of Jesus Christ without you. Please prayerfully consider sharing this mission with others. Tell them of the good that God is doing throughout this exciting mission.

Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you and the Lord be with you.

~Cory J. Rajek



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Dr. Cory J. Rajek. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR
Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include *Rajek-Latvia*

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givewith/rajek
Call a donor care representative: 800-930-4438



WALK TO REMEMBER

A memorial event honoring children gone too soon.


SEPT. 10TH AT 10AM
at the 4-H Grounds
1000 Egan Ave S. Madison, SD

JOIN US FOR CONNECTION AND
COMMUNITY AS WE HONOR
AND REMEMBER CHILDREN
GONE TOO SOON.



HONOR A CHILD GONE TOO SOON

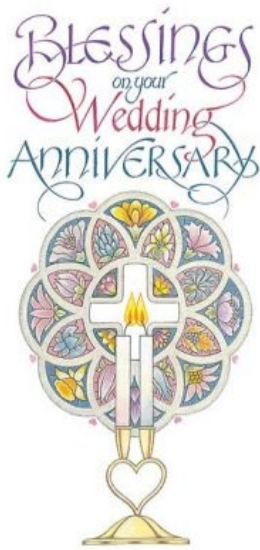
You can honor a child with a memorial sign to be placed along the walk route. We will work with you to personalize the sign to tell your loved ones story. T-shirts will also be available for purchase with the option to have the child's name added to the list on the back. To order signs and t-shirts, go to healinghopes.com/walk-to-remember and place your orders by NOON on Aug. 29th. If you had a sign made last year, it will be included again at no charge. If this is not the Walk that you normally attend but you would like your child's sign included, please contact us.



If you have any questions,
contact Korisa Haak at 605-579-0096,
Ashley Milbrandt 218-242-3343,
or Karri Allen at 605-201-4261.
www.healinghopes.com



SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Justin & Jenna	Baumberger	Sep 4, 2010
Peggy & Bill	George	Sep 5, 2009
Jonathan & Danielle	Gehrels	Sep 7, 2019
Matt & Kayla	Tweet	Sep 7, 2013
Connie & Jeff	Brown	Sep 11, 1998
Dale & Kathy	Dorow	Sep 12, 1964
Ted & Carolyn	Lindholm	Sep 17, 1971
Jerry & Julie	Gehrels	Sep 19, 1981

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lori	Lindholm	Sep 1, 1979
Jake	Hemmer	Sep 3, 1996
Jayden	Delfs	Sep 4, 2011
Jeremy	Lindholm	Sep 5, 1979
Peggy	George	Sep 6, 1968
Russ	Claussen	Sep 8, 1966
Brittyn	Bjorklund	Sep 10, 2015
Diana	Maas	Sep 10, 1957
Ryan	Lindholm	Sep 13, 1983
Jill	Feige	Sep 14, 1985
Brendyn	McManus	Sep 16, 2012
Connie	Hess	Sep 18, 1948
Cindy	VanPelt	Sep 19, 1958
Deb	Reck	Sep 20, 1953
Nicole	Backus	Sep 23, 1993
Rory	Milbrandt	Sep 26, 2021
Landen	McManus	Sep 27, 2010
Arlyn	Tammen	Sep 28, 1939
Liz	Delfs	September?

SEPTEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Kaleb	Lindholm	Sep 1, 2013
David	Beeck	Sep 2, 1956
Brock	Eppe	Sep 3, 2006
Abigail	Eppe	Sep 5, 2010
Austin	Tammen	Sep 6, 1998
Kenneth	Lindholm	Sep 7, 2003
Tom	Baumberger	Sep 8, 1951
CeCe	Gibney	Sep 9, 2007
Dannie	Johnson	Sep 10, 1944
Olivia	Lindholm	Sep 10, 2006
Glenn	DeGroot	Sep 17, 1967
Liz	Delfs	Sep 17, 2000
Daniel	Voy	Sep 17, 2000
Jeffrey	Arneson	Sep 19, 1971
Jackson	Mendel	Sep 20, 1992
Peggy	George	Sep 22, 1968
Jake	Hemmer	Sep 22, 1996
Danielle	Eppe	Sep 26, 1976
Lane	Gehrels	Sep 26, 2021
Jill	Feige	Sep 29, 1985



**TO READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
SUGGESTED BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

DATE	FIRST READING	SECOND READING
Sept 1	1 Chron. 29:10-13	Job 31-33
Sept 2	Psalms 86	Job 34-36
Sept 3	Psalms 87	Job 37-39
Sept 4	Psalms 88	Job 40-42
Sept 5	Psalms 89	Proverbs 1-3
Sept 6	Psalms 90	Proverbs 4-7
Sept 7	Psalms 91	Proverbs 8-10
Sept 8	Psalms 92	Proverbs 11-13
Sept 9	Psalms 93	Proverbs 14-16
Sept 10	Psalms 94	Proverbs 17-19
Sept 11	Psalms 95	Proverbs 20-22
Sept 12	Psalms 96	Proverbs 23-25
Sept 13	Psalms 97	Proverbs 26-28
Sept 14	Psalms 98	Proverbs 29-31
Sept 15	Psalms 99	Ecclesiastes 1-3
Sept 16	Psalms 100	Ecclesiastes 4-6
Sept 17	Psalms 101	Ecclesiastes 7-9
Sept 18	Psalms 102	Ecclesiastes 10-12
Sept 19	Psalms 103	S. of Solomon 1-4
Sept 20	Psalms 104	S. of Solomon 5-8
Sept 21	Psalms 105	Jeremiah 1-3
Sept 22	Psalms 106	Jeremiah 4-6
Sept 23	Psalms 107	Jeremiah 7-9
Sept 24	Psalms 108	Jeremiah 10-12
Sept 25	Psalms 109	Jeremiah 13-15
Sept 26	Psalms 110	Jeremiah 16-18
Sept 27	Psalms 111	Jeremiah 19-22
Sept 28	Psalms 112	Jeremiah 23-25
Sept 29	Psalms 113	Jeremiah 26-28
Sept 30	1 Chron	Jeremiah 29-31

SEPTEMBER 2022

Altar Guild: Kayla Welton ~ Ashley Milbrandt ~ Lacey Gehrels

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Sunday, September 4 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Layla Gibney Greeters: Mark & Delorus Limmer Organist: TBA Board of Education Meeting	5	6	7 4:00 pm Confirmantion & Bible History Class 4:00 pm Confirmantion & Bible History Class 7:00 pm Youth Group	8	9	10
11 Sunday September 11 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Olivia Cacho Greeters: Erik & Lisa Lindholm Family Organist: Shirley Backus Sunday School Teachers Meeting Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service	12 Altar Guild 7:00 pm	13	14 4:00 pm Confirmantion & Bible History Class 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	15 Winkle	16	17
18 Sunday, September 18 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Addeyson Olinger Greeters: Jeremy & Lori Lindholm Organist: Shirley Backus Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service 400 Circuit Forum at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hartford	19 NEWS LETTER DEAD LINE	20	21 4:00 pm Confirmantion & Bible History Class 7:00 pm Youth Group	22	23	24
25 Sunday, August 28 -9:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Acolyte: Makenzie Cacho Greeters: Loren & Amy Lindholm Family Organist: Peggy George Sunday School & Adult Bible Study following service	26	27	28 4:00 pm Confirmantion & Bible History Class 7:00 pm Youth Group	29	30	