

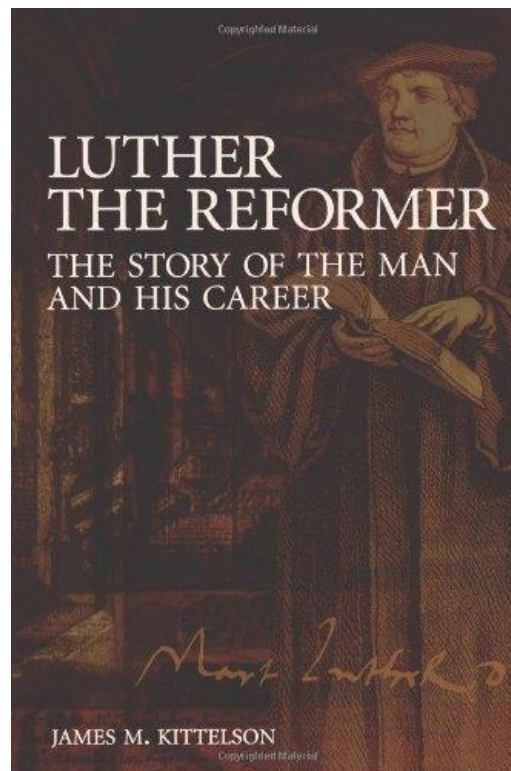
# Spirit of the Redeemer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

June 2017

## Summer Reading Group

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).*



Please consider attending the Summer Reading Group. For this Reformation 500 Year I have chosen the book *Luther The Reformer*. The back cover gives a good summary:

A POWERFUL AND READABLE LIFE STORY  
OF THE GREAT REFORMER

This single-volume biography has become a standard resource for those who wish to delve into the depths of the Reformer without drowning in a sea of scholarly concerns.

“The best complete biography of Luther for our times.”  
- Lewis W. Spitz, Stanford University

“A masterful book, Kittelson present us with a ‘good read’ of the whole of Luther’s life in a manageable length.”

- Carter Lindberg, School of Theology, Boston University

“This book will become a standard ‘life of Luther.’”

- George Tavard, the Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Please sign up in the narthex as soon as possible. The price of each book is only \$5.00! This is great sale price! Books may be picked up by Sunday, June 4. Meeting times are as follows:

Friday, June 16, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Discussion on Part 1

Friday, June 23, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Discussion on Part 2

Friday, June 30, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Discussion on Part 3

Friday, July 14, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Discussion on Parts 4 & 5

– *Pastor Young*



## *Desiderius Erasmus*

*c.1466-1536*

Erasmus of Rotterdam was a pivotal character in Luther’s development as a true reformer. He was born in either 1466 or 1467, the illegitimate son of a priest and a physician’s daughter. He was orphaned by 1485 and was pressured to join an Augustinian Monastery. He was ordained in 1492.

By 1515 he became councilor to 16-year-old Charles of Spain, who in 1519 would become Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1516 Erasmus composed his critical edition of the New Testament, which included the Greek text along with his revised Latin translation of Jerome’s Vulgate. In 1518 he translated Theodore Gaza’s Greek grammar into Latin and thereby introduced Greek to many humanist students. Erasmus’ second edition of the New Testament, printed in 1519 was the one Luther used to translate his German New Testament. Erasmus is also credited with spotting the mistranslations of Jerome.

Frederick the Wise’s confidence in Luther was further confirmed when Frederick asked Erasmus what he should do about Luther. Erasmus responded that Luther’s only crime had been to touch the triple crown of the Pope and the stomachs of the monks. These words from Erasmus help explain Frederick’s actions back in 1518 when he was acting Emperor, and the Pope ordered him to send Luther to Rome to recant. Frederick refused on the grounds that Luther would not receive a fair trial. The Pope’s representative Cardinal Cajetan would have to interview Luther on German soil.

Luther’s interview with Cardinal Cajetan took place October 12-14, 1518. They met in the home of the Fugger bankers—the same bankers who in 1514 had loaned Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz the money so he could pay the fine for being archbishop over more than one see.

Luther entered his interview believing Cajetan would give him a fair hearing and listen to his appeal. He was accompanied by Johann von Staupitz, his mentor. During the interview, Staupitz mediated between Cajetan and Luther and urged Luther to submit to authority.

Pope Leo X had directed Cardinal Cajetan not to engage Luther in dialogue, but to simply force him to recant. But Cajetan had a strong intellect and couldn't resist debating Luther. They spent three tense days debating indulgences, Thomas Aquinas, canon law, and church authority. In the end, Luther refused to recant and proposed that his case be referred to the universities. Cajetan refused. While George Spalatin was accompanying Frederick to the Diet of Augsburg, he learned that Cajetan was planning to arrest Luther and take him to Rome. When Luther got word, he escaped on horseback in the night and arrived back in Wittenberg on the first anniversary of the posting of the 95 *Theses*.

Meanwhile, Staupitz had released Luther from his vows. He did not want Luther's reputation and words to damage the Order of the Augustinians. At the same time, this release gave Luther freedom to act.

In the next few months, a debate broke out between a colleague of Luther's and a priest named Johann Eck, the next man in our Reformation Twelve.

**Do You Enjoy**  
having live flowers in the  
chancel? You can support  
this work of beautification  
by sponsoring an  
arrangement on any of  
several Sundays throughout  
the year. You can make your  
desire to sponsor an  
arrangement by signing up  
in the Church library today!



## **Growing In Christ Sunday School** **June 2017**

### **Day of Pentecost June 4**

*My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2*

#### **The Case of the Broken Debris: Tower of Babel Genesis 9:18-19; 11:1-9**

In Sunday School this week students investigate "The Case of the Broken Debris: Tower of Babel." They will learn that God calls us to repent of the sinful desire to make a name for ourselves, seeking glory apart from God. Instead, God makes a name for us and blesses us through His Spirit. Parents might ask, "How does God bless us today?" **LAW** Our resistance or failure to listen to God's Word leads Him to disrupt our self-glorifying plans. **GOSPEL** Such disruptions are calls to repentance, which our heavenly Father follows up with His grace, forgiveness, and eternal life. **KEY POINT** God sends temporary disruptions into our lives to call us to repent of the sinful desire to attain glory for ourselves apart from God. God will make a name for us and bless us through His Spirit.

### **The Holy Trinity June 11**

*You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD. Psalm 70:5*

#### **The Case of the Floating Basket: Birth of Moses Exodus 1:8-2:10**

"The Case of the Floating Basket: Birth of Moses" is today's Sunday School investigation. God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery, in the same way God sent His Son, Jesus, to deliver us from slavery to sin. Discuss: "How does Jesus deliver us from slavery to sin? How can we respond to this gift?" **LAW** Sin, death, and the devil try to tempt, oppress, discourage, and enslave us because they are opposed to the joy of life in Christ. **GOSPEL** God send His Son, Jesus Christ, born in a humble way, to deliver us from this temptation, oppression, discouragement, and slavery. **KEY POINT** God sent Moses and then protected him so that he could deliver the Israelites from slavery; in the same way, God sent His greater Son, Jesus, to deliver us from the slavery of sin.

## **Pentecost 2 June 18**

*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8*

### **The Case of the Scarlet Cord: Rahab Believes Joshua 2**

Today in Sunday School students look into “The Case of the Scarlet Cord: Rahab Believes.” No matter what sins we may have committed, God delivers us, through repentance and faith, from destruction and eternal death. Consider discussing, “How did God rescue the spies? How has He rescued us?” **LAW** God will punish all who fight against Him and refuse to fear and trust Him, as happened with the people of Jericho. **GOSPEL** God’s mercy is even greater than His wrath, for He forgives and restores to life all who repent and fear Him, as happened with Rahab. **KEY POINT** No matter what sins we may have committed, God works through our repentance and faith to deliver us from destruction and eternal death.

## **Pentecost 3 June 25**

*[God says,] “You will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you.” Jeremiah 29:12*

### **The Case of the Little Coat: Hannah’s Prayer**

*1 Samuel 1:1-2:21*

The investigation for this week is “The Case of the Little Coat: Hannah’s Prayer.” God cares and provides for the humble and lowly. Parent might ask, “How does God respond to your prayers? Who could you pray for?” **LAW** The Lord is not pleased with those who ignore Him and mock His worship, as did Hophni and Phinehas. **GOSPEL** When we are abused by others, we may suffer for a time, but the Lord has not forgotten us. He shall bless us through His Son, Jesus. **KEY POINT** God cares and provides for the humble and lowly.

## **APRIL 2017: MONTHLY KUSAAL LUTHERAN MISSION NEWS AND PRAYER NEEDS**

April 2017 No. 80

*“As long as it is day, we must work the works of Him who sent me, night is coming when no one can work”  
John 9:4.*

**Greetings:** Easter greetings from your brothers and sisters in Ghana! The Lord is risen!

**Baptism:** Twenty six people were baptized. At the Easter convention at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 22 of the 26 were baptized.

**Easter Convention:** 2017 Easter convention was held at St. Luke Lutheran Church from April 13-16th. There was great joy as people walked to the convention grounds carrying their food stuff, and sleeping mats singing and praise the Lord

for calling them from darkness to his marvelous light. Among the highlights of the convention are: Bible studies conducted twice daily led by the four seminarians; Bible quiz, Catechism quiz, Reformation quiz, songs competition, dramas, choirs, various displays, reports from various churches, reports from various church officers, and the crown of the convention was divine service where baptism and Holy Communion were received.

**Easter Convention brings three men to Christ:** Three idol worshiping men from Bugzunde village attended the Easter convention following the invitation of Mr. Mark Salam Atinga, the chairman of the congregation. By the grace of the Lord, at the end of the convention, these men expressed interest in joining the Church. We prayed for them and offered them. The next Sunday the three were in Church. Praise the Lord!

**Translation:** There is great progress in the translation, editing and reviewing work in Kusaal, Komba, Bimoba and Fante (Akan). Lutheran Heritage Foundation is greatly assisting Ghana to have many good Lutheran books in the mother tongue. What a heritage!

**Radio Broadcast Program:** The seminarians have been giving the opportunity to make the radio program since they are on holidays. As they prepare and other leaders guide them, their messages are loud and clear. Please if you are able support Ghana Harvest who has made it possible for us to have the weekly radio programs two years ago.

**Evangelism/Outreach:** A follow-up of the evangelism/outreach program during the Easter convention, moved the evangelism team to visit Naranzua and Zuuku and more than 120 people were witnessed to.

**Men Fellowship:** The Men Fellowship met April 15 and 29. Like Americans Saturday Bible Study, the men contribute some money and some drinks are shared (Not alcohol). Our Bible studies are based on selected men in the Bible. Last week we studied Bezalel and Oholiab who were filled with the Holy Spirit and given skills in all kinds of craft making. The Lord has done same for our men.

**Chapel buildings:** Banstengdaanteng chapel has been roofed. Thanks to Ghana Harvest for the funds.

**Sanitary water wells:** Two sanitary water wells have been concrete lined at Abush near Wiidi and Yarigungu near Ziako. These wells have been described as “new life” by some of the beneficiaries. They explained that getting good and clean water means getting a better and healthier body.

**Concordia Preparatory School:** CPS is on Easter vacation and school resumes on May 2. Already as many as ten parents have asked their children be admitted. The school already has over 600 students and as already stated, classrooms for the students is our greatest challenge.

**Fourth grandchild for Nicholas and Cynthia:** The Lord has blessed Baba (Nicholas' son) and his wife Gladys with a baby girl. Please join us to praise the Lord for this wonderful blessing.

**Michael Akparibo, a young man "of God":** Michael Akparibo is a student in Bawku Technical Institute but he comes from Tengnoog. Michael decided to be a day student so that he could support his father who has stroke, and also lead the Tengnoog Lutheran Church. Michael has time to study, assist his father and take part in all the Church's programs during the week. By the grace of God, Michael's father asked him to carry him (father) to the Church. Michael's father Mr. Akparibo has been an idol worshiper but has decided to abandon his idols and ask Jesus to take control of his life. Please pray for Mr. Akparibo that if it is the Lord's will, he receives healing at the right time.

**Marriage:** Two marriages were performed. Joseph and Esther and David and Grace all of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Bugzunde. Please pray for these young couples.

**Funerals:** Three funerals were performed. Nicholas' mother-in-law, Susana died at 90 years old. Dorcas of Bugzunde Church who was more than 80 died. Because there are no mortuaries to keep dead bodies, burial takes place as soon as a person dies. Joshua Ayariga, a young man (28 years) old drowned when he tried to swim across a river. Late Joshua belonged to the family of Lazarus Ayariga who lost two children within two months. Traditionally a person who died through drowning or dying in sleep is considered to have died a "bad death." Thanks be to God that Joshua died in the Lord and will be resurrected on the Last Day.

**Memorial Service:** Three memorial services were held at Kpaliga, Bansakpanatenga and Bugzunde churches.

**Thank you:** Thank you for allowing the Lord to use you to bless the mission work in Ghana, Upper East Region: leadership training to raise more leaders, translation of good Lutheran books to be used now and in the future, literacy classes where adult are taught how to read and write in Kusaal, chapel buildings that are used for multiple activities, evangelism and outreach work where hundreds of people are reached with the gospel, radio program that broadcasts the pure Word of God (Law and Gospel), school that teaches and train more than 600 children to fear, love and trust in God above all, goats for widows to serve as income generating venture, sanitary wells that provide good and clean water for people who used to drink water from rivers, dams and lakes, and many more. You are part of this mission and ministry. We are most grateful to you.

### **Thanksgiving and Prayer Needs**

1. We praise God for the countless blessings we have received, and especially forgiveness of sins that Christ accomplished for us.
2. Praise the Lord for the continuing assistance that CCCS LeadaChild gives to schools to enhance the school's Christian Education programs.
3. Praise the Lord for the continued assistance received from Ghana Harvest.
4. Praise God for the regular support received from Ghana Harvest for the weekly radio program.

5. We praise the Lord for the congregation that provided funds for lining two wells (one more well is going to be lined).
6. Continue to pray for wisdom and resources for Lutheran Heritage Foundation as they provide printed materials for many language groups throughout the world.
7. Pray that the translation teams in Kusaal, Komba, Bimoba and Akan faithfully continue to translate our good doctrinal books into the local languages.
8. You can learn more about LHF by going to their website ([www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org)).
9. Pray that the women at the Gambaga Witches Camp continue to put their hope and trust Jesus, the Savior of the world and the friend of outcasts. CPS students are making special contributions to be given to the alleged witches.
10. Pray that we build more classrooms for CPS to accommodate the huge intake.
11. Pray for the bereaved families of late Madam Susana Kusanab, Ayariga's family and late Dorcas' family.

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? (1 John 3:16-17)*

**Nicholas Salifu**

Redeemer's  
Church Picnic  
Saturday, June 10  
4 PM  
Warner Park  
Shelter 9  
Food at 4:30  
**Sign up in the  
Church Library**



## *The Glories of God in Ghana*

*Psalm 87*

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: [dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org](mailto:dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org)



### ***Witnesses to the Resurrection***

Most of the Christians I know can't wait to say it. It is more than a greeting. It is, rather, the reality upon which all of our life is based. "Christ has risen!" These words cannot be contained in your mouth. It would pain us to keep them in; in fact, we might even pull a muscle in the trying. Just like a gift on Christmas morning, we can't wait to throw off the sackcloth wrappings of Lent and let the words burst from our joy-filled lips. "He has risen, indeed! Alleluia!" And we know, then, that everything will be fine.

Here in Ghana, they are not used to that practice of greeting and response. But they are just as ready to let the words ring out in their Easter songs of praise. "Ufira! Issa ufira!" (He has risen! Jesus, he has risen!). So filled with joy are the people here, that they often break out in the African tradition of dancing their praises. It is always a humbling thing to see them dancing their praises as they present their offerings unto the Lord. They are filled with joy, a joy that cannot be contained. It would kill them if they tried.

On the Second Sunday of Easter, we always hear the story of the Lord's appearance on that first Easter to the disciples, sans Thomas (John 20:19-29). We have all heard the story about Thomas, ashamed by the Lord's appearance a week later, exclaiming about Jesus what is the heart of the Christian faith: My Lord and my God! Afterwards, Jesus says some important words, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." I think there is a temptation to see this only as a rebuke of Thomas and not as a blessing on us. Thomas heard the message and, yes, he should have believed on the testimony of those who had been declared apostles (cf. vv. 21-23). Thomas's flesh was fighting against all that he had heard. His mind would not be conquered by the Word.

But there is also the glorious truth that we are all blessed because we have heard the witness of those who had beheld the risen Lord, watched Him eat a fish, and who had heard His words of peace. And, having heard the Word, we have believed. We have not seen with our eyes. But we have heard the message passed down from the apostles whose very purpose was to see the risen Lord and to make His resurrection known (Acts 1:21-22). Thomas should have believed on the witness of the other apostles; so it is with us. And hearing, we confess that faith. We don't know when the Lord will return and our eyes will no longer be denied their visual feast of the risen Lord. But until that day, we are to join in Thomas's life-changing confession: Jesus is our God and Lord! Even now we bow in adoration of Him whom we have heard with our ears but our eyes have not yet seen. But one day we will see Him. And we will again repeat in even more joyous tones: Christ has risen! He has risen, indeed! Alleluia!



*Ghanaian Easter Dresses*

Praying for our witness – us here and you there – of the same risen Lord!



## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our area director and his wife, Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte.
- Pray for our team here in West Africa. In Ghana: Rev/Mrs. David Erber, Rev/Mrs. Steven Schumacher  
In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker, and Rev. Jacob Gaugert.  
Sierra Leone: Rev/Mrs. Mark Moss; Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson.  
In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte; Rev. Fred Reinhardt and Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermott; Molly Christianson
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the Small Catechism work,
- Ask God to give Dale the ability to communicate Christ.
- Pray for Dennis, Dale's brother, still battling kidney stones.

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
TL 375  
Tamale, Ghana  
West Africa

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

## The Gifts of God in Northern Ghana

Getting back last month threw us into the busyness of Holy Week. On top of that, we are beginning the preparations for training in the months of August through October. Curriculum needs to be produced and preparations for halting any future infections are being worked



*Dale and Lazarus translating The Small Catechism*

on. But one more thing is happening that brings us much joy. Upon our return, Lazarus, a convert from Islam, asked for training to be a witness to the Dagomba tribe, of which he is a member. It was determined to begin that work by translating Luther's Small Catechism into Dagbani, as it was intended to be a primer in the Christian faith. There is already a Dagbani Bible; this will be a perfect tract for the Dagombas. The project will take some time, but Commandments 1 and 2 with their meanings have had an initial translation. There is a lot of review and study ahead, but it excites us to prepare this wonderful Christian tract for the many Muslims among the Dagombas.

## West African Retreat

Every other year we meet with our area's missionaries, those serving in West or Central Africa. This year, because of a weak Rand (the South African currency), it was decided to travel to South Africa. We had four days of Bible Study and worship as well as time to enjoy South Africa, which is a stunningly beautiful country. One of the highlights was to see a colony of penguins on Boulder Beach. These little guys let you get very close! When it was over, we stayed on with the Schumachers (Accra) to see more of this beautiful country.



## Finding Any Way to Proclaim Christ

On the Saturday before Easter, we did a traditional Ghanaian thing; we visited in a "funeral house," that is, in a home where there has been a death. Our connection was that the person had at one time been a Lutheran. So we greeted the bereaved and sat for some time. The group was no doubt mixed with Muslims as well as Christians. As we left, we asked to pray, which was warmly received. It was there that we proclaimed the resurrection of the Crucified One and for all who believe. Sometimes you can't preach but you can pray! Look for places in your life to share the Lord of life!

We commend you to the risen Lord,

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

*Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa*

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central

P.O. Box 66861

40718 Hwy E16

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Ghana," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/kaster](http://www.lcms.org/kaster).

Visit us at [www.facebook.com/kastersinghana](https://www.facebook.com/kastersinghana) - no FB membership needed!

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4 The Day of Pentecost</b> 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Door Offering	<b>5</b> 8 AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10 Bible Study 7 Choir	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 4 Church Picnic @ Shelter #9
<b>11 The Holy Trinity</b> 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service  <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i>	<b>12</b> 8 AA	<b>13</b> 7 LWML	<b>14</b> 10 Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30-8:00 Summer Reading Group	<b>17</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast
<b>18 Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Father's Day	<b>19</b> 8 AA	<b>20</b> 6:30 Council	<b>21</b> 10 Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:30-8:00 Summer Reading Group	<b>24</b>  <i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>
<b>25 Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection VBS	<b>26</b> VBS	<b>27</b> VBS	<b>28</b> 10 Bible Study VBS Movie Night	<b>29</b>  <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i>	<b>30</b> 6:30-8:00 Summer Reading Group	

**Help Support**



**Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League**



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**Sign out a Baby Bottles  
to fill with change**

**questions or comments: Geal Goldbeck or Janey Tiesler**

## **Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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