

Spirit of the Redeemer

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

August 2020



Unity

How wonderful is the unity that we have in Christ our Lord! We are incorporated into the very body of Christ. The Church is his body (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). Consider also that Jesus calls his disciples his family. “And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, [Jesus] said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother’” (Matt. 12:49-50). “Doing” the will of the Father is simply being a disciple of Jesus. Our Lord instructed, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent” (Jn. 6:29).

This means that we are brothers and sisters of Christ and of each other in Christ! Such a close and intimate fellowship is never to be taken for granted. We are closer than blood! By faith we remain family forever. This is why we pray the Collect for Unity of Faith:



O God, Your infinite love restores to the right way those who err, seeks the scattered, and preserves those whom You have gathered. Of Your tender mercy pour out on Your faithful people the grace of unity that, all schisms being ended, Your flock may be gathered to the true Shepherd of Your Church and may serve You in all faithfulness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord (*LSB Altarbook*, p. 428).

Listen to what we also pray during the Church Year:

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever (*LSB Altarbook*, Collect of the Day, Series A, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, p. 572).



Lord God, heavenly Father, we offer before You our common supplications for the well-being of Your Church through the world. So guide and govern it by Your Holy Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life (*LSB Altarbook*, General Intercession, p. 438).

Of course, the greatest realization of Christian unity in this present age is in the congregation. We are not just members, but family, and we serve one another as family! We who have received the

one baptism all gather at the same table in common confession and partake of the same food that gives eternal life! What joy!

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore (Ps. 133).*

– Pastor

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Lutheran Service Book 717

(adapted from hymn study by Gregory Just Wismar found at <https://www.lcms.org/worship/hymn-of-the-day-studies>)

Introduction

What hymns would you like to have sung at your funeral? Some people very carefully choose what hymns they would like to incorporate into that service; other people do not make any selection in that regard. “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” has become associated with the funerals of some great figures in American history, including presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Known as the “Navy hymn” in the United States, the original text and tune are both creations of gifted Englishmen. The two “middle stanzas” in the version used in *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* were written at a later time by an American clergyman. The hymn is an expression of confidence in the ability of God to grant His protection to all travelers. The words remind us of our dependence on the grace of God not only for the success of our earthly journeys, but also for the completion of our final journey from earth to heaven.

Exploring the Scriptures

Although the Old Testament people of God for the most part avoided large bodies of water, there were “storm stories” that became part of their shared experience and part of their worship life (Ps.107:23–32). The Bible begins with the event

Collect for peace and strength in trouble

O Lord, our saving light and our shelter in the day of trouble, turn us not away in anger because of our sins. Calm our hearts, strengthen our faith, and lead us in Your straight paths until we see Your surpassing goodness in heaven with all those who live in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

of creation that centers on the primeval ocean (Gen. 1:1–2). One of the most stirring Gospel narratives is the account of Jesus stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 8:23–27). The Gospels also share the account of Jesus meeting the disciples on the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 14:22–33).

Background

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” was originally written by William Whiting (1825–1878), an English schoolmaster, for a student of his who was sailing across the Atlantic to America. In the middle of the nineteenth century, transoceanic travel was still considered to be very perilous. Whiting wanted his student to be encouraged by the poem that he wrote as a farewell gift.

Making the Connection

The hymn “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” is centered on the theme of God’s providential care (Psalm 93). *LSB* 717 has been chosen as the Hymn of the Day for Proper 14A, the Sunday when Job 38:4–18 is the Old Testament Lesson and Matt. 14:22–33 is the appointed Gospel.

In Closing

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” is a hymn of trust that is appropriate for times of personal travel and for times when others are traveling as well. Its use as a hymn for funerals is understandable, in that our final traveling to God’s eternal presence — that place where “the sea was no more” (Rev. 21:1) — is the greatest of journeys.

Prayer

Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Before Travel, *LSB*, p. 287).

Eternal Father, Strong to Save LSB 717

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2a O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

3a Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,

And give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow’r,
Our people shield in danger’s hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe’er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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Stewardship of Time and Talents Sunday will be September 13th.

Inventories will be sent out in late August through church mailboxes and/or through the mail for each member. Each member is asked to look at the inventory, prayerfully consider ways that you can serve the Lord and your congregation through your time and talents, and then return the inventory to the church in person or through the mail by September 13th. This will help different boards and committees know who to contact when help is needed. As the Bible says in 1 Peter 4: 10 - 11, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Find our newsletters online at:
<http://redeemernashville.org/newsletter/>

For the Month of July

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Drew G on his graduation from Franklin Classical School! Unfortunately, we were not able to have our traditional reception after church to congratulate our graduates, so we wanted to congratulate Drew in our newsletter. Drew will be attending Belmont University in the honors program, studying for a B.A. degree in Sports Management. Drew, we pray for God's blessings as you move to this next chapter in your life!

Sowing Seed during a Pandemic:

By Chris G.

Several weeks ago, my wife and I had dinner at the house of some friends of ours. The topic of church came up, and they expressed an interest in visiting our church - which they did not long after. They found the Divine Service to be refreshing, indicated that they would return, and that they were interested in adult instruction to learn more about the Lutheran faith.

The most important way in which any member of Redeemer can participate in outreach is to speak to those whom God has placed in your life in your daily vocation and invite them to the Divine Service. Some of your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who are un-churched may be more receptive now to a church invitation than previous times when you invited them. God uses times of war, natural disaster and pestilence to bring people to repentance and faith. Some of those people may be your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If others in your life have previously been attending a church of a different denomination, they may also be more receptive to a church invitation right now. They may volunteer that their church is not offering in-person worship services, and so inviting them to Redeemer is a simple way to initiate a spiritual conversation and be of service to your neighbor. Help sow the seed, and pray that God would make them like the good soil – not like the path, the rocky ground, or among the thorns.

Adult Bible Studies @ Redeemer

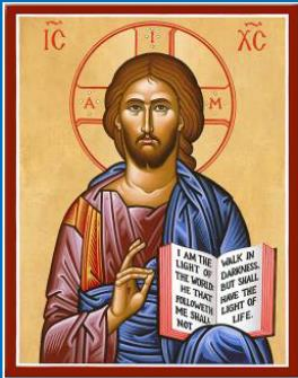
Join Pastor Young for a Bible study on 1 & 2 Thessalonians via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Every week you will receive an emailed invitation to join fellow Redeemer members for this study. Don't forget that Pastor Young has studies available on his YouTube page. Simply go to YouTube and search for Pastor Philip Young, Redeemer Lutheran Nashville type the following into your search bar: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb3FfBiRN-54P6Felu-gXA>.



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



June
2020



O God of light,
Your Word, a lamp unfailing,
Shall pierce the darkness
of our earth-bound way
And show Your grace,
Your plan for us unveiling,
And guide our footsteps
to the perfect day.

Undimmed by time,
those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts
Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits,
longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion
in the Savior's face.

To all the world
Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth,
to every land and race,
That myriad tongues,
in one great anthem blending,
May praise and celebrate
Your gift of grace.

"O God of Light"
Lutheran Service Book #836



Deacon Damašek, Cantor Sovitzky
and Pastor Kaster

A Bittersweet Goodbye

One challenge in serving an expat community is that members are always coming and going. One family gets involved, and, before you know it, they have gone off, back to their home country. Over the past year, we have been blessed to have Richard Sovitzky serve as our cantor. Richard has an extraordinary voice and a deep love for the Divine Service. So, when we had to bid him farewell recently, it was a sad thing for us as a congregation, but also sweet to us, because he is leaving for pastoral studies at the Fort Wayne seminary. (Added to that, we will soon have to bid farewell to his sister Isabel as well, as she is leaving to work in one of our Lutheran school ministries.) So, as the congrega-

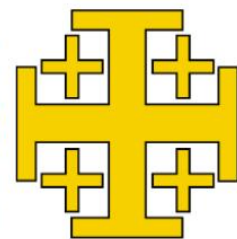
tion bids farewell, it does so as a holy "catch and release" program. That is, we receive them for a time, only to pass them on to be a blessing to others and in other places.

This is the work and joy of the Church. The local congregation is a seminary in the literal sense of that word, which means "seedbed." In it, God abundantly sows His seed of the Holy Scriptures. Those words come into our ears and, further, even into our hearts, creating faith that clings to Jesus for salvation. Those words become visible in the Sacraments—water, bread, and wine—and deliver to us the forgiveness that Christ has won for us. And through these, the Christian grows to become a healthy seedling and then onto maturity and, from there, becomes a bearer of fruit. It is as the reproductive cycle of plants: seeds to plants, plants to seeds, and the whole thing continues on *in perpetuity*.

This means we are all missionaries of a sort. True, some have answered the call to be a "professional" missionary, those who engage cultures not their own with the Word of God. That includes learning languages, learning about the culture, and finding ways to bring that Word to people outside of the Church. But still, all Christians are missionaries at the very least in the lives that they live to the glory of Christ and in the calling of ever more sheep to hearken to the voice of the only Shepherd who can truly be called good. We—you there, and we here—are all a part of letting the world know the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be a blessing.

We ask for your prayers for Richard and his formation as a pastor. But we also ask for your prayers for us, that our open-door and open-heart would be inviting to the next people who come to be fed and sent to be a part of the calling to the world. And know that we pray for the same thing for you and your congregation. Christ's return is ever drawing closer; therefore, let us be about His work.

Blessings, strength, and peace be unto you!



The Jerusalem Cross



We thank the Lord for all of the people and ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran
Hendersonville, NC

Our Savior Lutheran
Bettendorf, IA

St. Peter's Lutheran
Cornelius, OR

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 14/152
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Pray for our visa renewal that all our paperwork would be received well.

Our regional director, Pastor Krikava, that God would use Him as a blessing to us.

The Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic, for a sense of mission.

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is

Dale.Kaster@lcms.org

or

Suzanne.Kaster@lcsintl.org

A Baptism!

This month brought one of those moments that is a cause of great celebration—a child was baptized into Christ and into the Church. The family of the child are old friends of our Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava. So, of course, he performed the Baptism and, led us in singing praises to our gracious God. Currently, we are catechizing two adults, one

for Holy Baptism and the other for membership in the Lutheran Church. We thank the Lord of the Church for the growth that His Holy Spirit brings.



A New Way to Stay Linked to Us

When the Coronavirus closed down public worship, we adapted and started live-streaming services via our congregational Facebook page. From its reception, we realized that perhaps this is something that we should somehow keep in part. So, now, we are using the internet to publish a podcast of the sermon for each Sunday. You can find our podcasts [here](#) on Podbean. The files are in MP3 format, so they should be able to play on most players. Come by our site and check out the sermons we have already posted as well as check in with us each week as we bring the living Word of God to the people of Prague.

Czech Lessons

We are still taking lessons in the Czech language. It seems to us that the more we study, the harder it seems to get. Czech has a very hard syntax. And it also is a challenge to hear with an uninitiated ear. So, we are a year into our Czech lessons and are still trying to use this language. But word by word we are slowly making headway; and, even more, we are honoring the people of Prague by trying to use the language that they themselves know is hard.

¹ Na počátku bylo Slovo a to Slovo bylo u Boha a to Slovo bylo Bůh. ² To bylo na počátku u Boha. ³ Všechno povstalo skrze něj a bez něj nepovstalo nic, co je.

The text of John 1:1-3 in Czech

God Be with You!

It is hard for us, as Americans, to hear of the problems that our nation is going through. We are praying that God would use even the troubling times there to be an open door for many to share Christ. Please, remember that the Lord is indeed Lord and will never will forsake you!

Kristův pokoj s vami! (The peace of Christ be with you!)

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster—

Your Missionaries in Prague, the Czech Republic

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

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

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

August 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	1
2 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service Door Offering	3 8 AA	4	5 6:30 Pastor's Zoom Bible Study	6	7 7 LWML	8
9 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service	10 8 AA	11	12 6:30 Pastor's Zoom Bible Study	13	14	15 8:30 Men's Reading Group
16 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service	17 8 AA	18 6:30 Council	19 6:30 Pastor's Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22
23 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service	24 8 AA	25	26 6:30 Pastor's Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29
30 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Rally Day	31					

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