

Spirit of the Redeemer

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

June 2024

What Are You Reading?

In last month's article I began with the Bible passage about the Ethiopian eunuch reading the scroll of Isaiah in his chariot. Philip, who was led by the Spirit, asked the eunuch, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Act 8:30-31). I referenced this account to discuss how Scripture should be interpreted with the lens of Christ.

This month I ask a more basic question. Not, "Do you understand what you are reading?" but "What are reading?" What books are you reading? Are you reading any books at all, or just articles on websites? Do you read fiction or nonfiction? Is what you are reading and putting in your mind "honorable," "just," "pure," and "lovely"? (Phil. 4:8). Or is it indecent and twisted?

Are you reading the Bible? Do you have a plan to read through the Bible? Shouldn't the Bible have the top place in your reading list? What about books on theology?

Luther has some very interesting words about books on theology:

The number of books on theology must be reduced and only the best ones published. It is not many books that make men learned, nor even reading. But it is a good book frequently read, no matter how small it is, that makes a man learned in the Scriptures and godly. Indeed, the writings of all the holy fathers should be read only for a time so that through them we may be led into the Scriptures. As it is, however, we only read them these days to avoid going any further and getting into the Bible. We are like men who read the sign posts and never travel the road they indicate. Our dear fathers wanted to lead us to the Scriptures by their writings, but we use their works to get away from the Scriptures. Nevertheless, the Scripture alone is our vineyard in which we must all labor and toil (AE 44:205).

This may sound strange coming from Luther who wrote volumes and volumes of works on theology. However, his works certainly are clear in pointing people to the Scriptures themselves. And he prized above his other works the Catechism, that "small," "good book" to be "frequently read" (See AE:172-173).

At the risk of transgressing Luther's wisdom, I invite you to read a book on theology this summer –

Before the study of God's Word

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word that, by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lutheran Service Builder: Altar Book p.450

along with the Scriptures! I have chosen a small volume that I have deemed "a good book." It addresses the cultural assaults on the Christian life and the world's rejection of what God has deemed "good" in his creation and plan of redemption. Please join me. Let us read this work so that we are kept on the road of God's Word and brought even more frequently to the delightful vineyard of Scripture in which we labor and toil with great reward. The details are below.

– Pastor Young

"Christopher Esget is the consummate parish pastor who warns us against our disordered world and sets before us God's reordering of all things in Christ. We face what we think of as new challenges to the faith of the Church and the piety of her children. Esget shows that the ancient revelation of God in Christ, delivered once and for all through the Word of the prophets and apostles, responds to all these challenges with grace, encouragement, and comfort for the troubled soul. This is soul care at its best!"

—*Scott R. Murray, PhD*

Senior pastor, Memorial Lutheran Church; vice president, LCMS West Southwest Region

"In 1983, Nobel Prize recipient Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn delivered the most memorable speech of his distinguished career. He said the decline of great civilizations commence when "men have forgotten God." In Christopher Esget's magnificent new book, he demonstrates that the vigorous cultural and societal war being prosecuted against natural law norms has consequences propelling the destruction of marriages, families, and children. Repudiation and rebellion are the sad, recurring motifs. Yet the glory of Esget's powerful analysis is that Christian hope and the seeds of authentic regeneration are possible even in a spiritual desert where transgressive ideas seem omnipresent. This is a must-read book, worthy of Solzhenitsyn's matchless rigor, intellectual goodness, and moral duty to be intelligent."

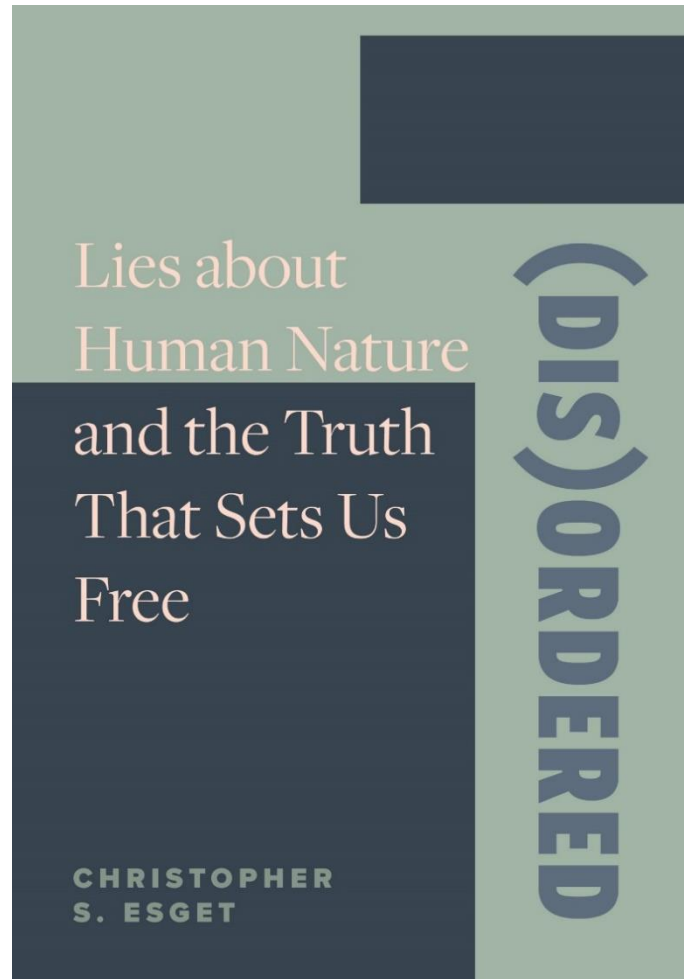
—*Timothy S. Goeglein*

Vice president, External and Government Relations, Focus on the Family

"In recent years, there have been many attempts to explain how our discourse became dominated by destructive ideas such as Marxism, transgenderism, emotivism, and plain old narcissism. But nearly all those explanations have failed to discuss the true and singular antidote to our ideological ailments—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With stunning clarity, Esget has written a highly accessible book that brings together theology, politics, and culture to deliver the message that a light shines in the darkness and no "ism" can overcome it."

—*Mollie Ziegler Hemingway*

Editor in chief, The Federalist



*** Order your own copy at Concordia Publishing House (cph.org) or Amazon. ***

Summer Reading Group – Schedule for Reading (Dis)Ordered

Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m. – pp. 5-65

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m. – pp. 66-122

Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m. – pp. 123-162

Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. – pp. 163-203

Ongoing Prayer Needs

Please update Pastor and the church office on these needs.

For discernment of what is true and false

Lord Jesus, You call heaven and all the saints and apostles and prophets to rejoice when those who pretend to be the true Church are brought to judgment. Help us to discern between what is true and what is false, always knowing that Your kingdom comes through humility and suffering and that the truth of the Gospel is found in You alone; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Lutheran Service Builder

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

Baby Shower

June 23 @ 3 p.m.

Redeemer's Lutheran Women's
Missionary League is hosting a
Baby Shower on behalf of
Operation Saving Life on
Sunday, June 23 @ 3 p.m.
Details to come.



Birthdays, Baptismal Birthdays, & Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

MONTHLY KUSAAL LUTHERAN MISSION NEWS AND PRAYER NEEDS

April 2024 No. 163

“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: Greetings from your brothers and sisters in the Upper East Region of Ghana. As we approach the rainy season, we face the highest hot weather, over 100 degrees. This year's is by far the hottest season. We pray for good rains soon for crops to be planted.

Baptism: Rev. Joseph Asaana baptized two babies at St. John's, Rev. Maslin also baptized a child at Immanuel and Nicholas baptized three at St. Mark.

Leadership training class: The monthly leadership class equips the lay leaders to preach, teach and lead the various churches.

New Church in Baakanga: Baakanga community is ripe to have a Church. House to house evangelism has been conducted in the area ably led by Rev. Joseph Asaana, the new Regional Pastor. More than 50 people have expressed the interest to become Christians. The chief and elders of the community have been consulted and they don't object to our starting a Church in the community. A place of worship (Bible studies, Prayer session and Catechism class) has been found in the local school building. Two more days for house to house evangelism would be carried on May 3 and 4. By the grace of God we would gather on May 5th for the first time for teaching and learning in the Baakanga Primary School.

Graduation: By the grace of God, our two seminarians, John Abande and Michael Akparibo after successfully completing their seminary training and vicarage will graduate on May 18, 2024. The two new pastors are coming to join the three pastors in the Upper East to serve the 13 Churches and possibly more by the grace of God.

Installation of Youth Directors and Evangelism Co-ordinators: During our Regional Church Council meeting held on April 27th, Mr. Jacob Ayariga and Pastor Michael Akparibo were installed as the Youth Directors. Mr. Jacob Abugri and Madam Cynthia Akudugu were also installed as Evangelism and Outreach co-ordinators. Moving the Church forward is our prayer.

Weekly Radio Broadcast Program: The weekly radio broadcast took place at MAXX FM Radio

Station only. The Source FM Radio Station is temporarily down.

Grace Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church and Ebenezer Lutheran Church Chapels

completed: By the grace of God and through the gifts received, the above chapels have been plastered and walls painted.

Concordia Preparatory School (CPS): CPS

reopened on 30th April for the third term. The school is blessed to receive additional metal desks and textbooks.

Goats for Widows: The Lord has blessed us with additional money gifts to purchase goats for widows. Forty three goats have been purchased and distributed among widows in the various churches this year 2024.

Memorial Services: Memorial services were held for Stephen and Cynthia Ayamba in St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Needs:

1. We praise the Lord for all the various kinds of support received from Ghana Harvest, churches, individuals and friends for the various supports received.
2. Praise the Lord for the gifts received to buy more goats for widows.
3. Praise the Lord for the gifts to plaster and more Lutheran Church chapels.
4. Praise the Lord for the funds to purchase textbooks and metal desks for CPS.
5. Pray that by the grace of God we are able to start a new Church in the Baakanga area on May 5, 2024.
6. Pray for the newly installed Youth Directors and Evangelism and Outreach Co-ordinators.
7. Pray that we get funds to complete work CPS classrooms.
8. Pray that CPS gets more textbooks for the children.
9. We thank and praise the Lord for your active participation and support in the Ghana mission and ministry with your prayers, encouragement and monetary gifts.

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)

Pastor Nicholas Salifu



YOUR SCHOOL CORRESPONDENCE FROM Savann Plate and Good Samaritan

Dear Members of Redeemer,

As for God, His way is perfect; The Lord's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him. Psalm 18:30.

As conditions in Haiti remain very volatile and families continue to place all their trust in God for protection, these words from Psalm 18 provide comfort to many of the students and teachers that attend the school you sponsor. Even through all the chaos, God is providing a way for close to 50,000 students to receive a nutritious meal through a Trinity HOPE feeding program each school day. Of the 271 schools we expected to feed at the beginning of this school year, 247 of them remain open and operating today. There are some days when the children may have to remain at their school longer than expected, waiting for the roads to clear and for a safe pathway home to develop. There are other days when a school may be forced to remain closed due to the potential for violence. But all the ongoing communication we have with our Haitian Feeding Program Directors has indicated that, to the best of our knowledge, *EVERY CHILD* we serve has been shielded by God from severe harm and death. We give God thanks for this blessing and for His promise in Psalm 18:30.

Although gangs continue to control close to 90% of Port au Prince, there have been some recent developments that could lead towards a more stable future. As of late April, the 9-member Presidential Transitional Council has been finalized and officially installed as the interim government. This group has voted on a new Prime Minister, Fritz Belizaire, who replaces Ariel Henry as the previous and rejected de facto leader. This new interim government is now working with the international community to coordinate a plan to quell the gangs with the help of international forces. As expected, the gangs reject this new interim government and remain steadfast in their attempt to retain control.

Throughout all this uncertainty, Trinity HOPE has continued with the work God has called us to do. Soley by the grace of God, we have been able to find the quantities of food we need every month, we have been blessed with the resources to pay for this food, all the food has been able to be safely transported from the vendor to the schools, and the food has remained safe in the storage at the schools. God is clearly protecting Trinity HOPE and is our divine shield. We give Him all the glory!

We are grateful that God has paved the way for us to meet generous donors like you. THANK YOU for your continued support in the sponsorship of your school. You are making a tremendous difference in the lives of these children. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Serving Christ Jesus Together,

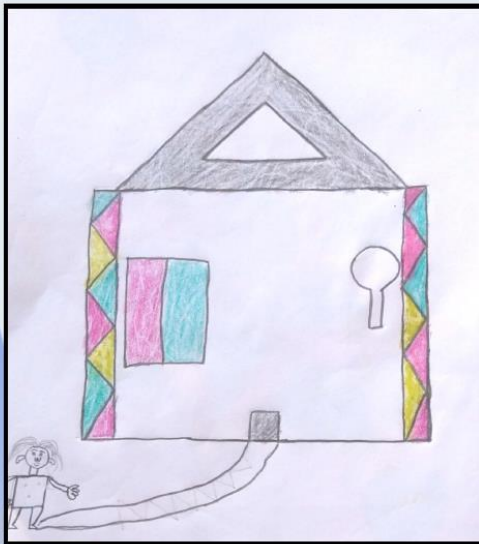
Your Trinity HOPE Team





May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in Him,

Spring 2024



Bringing HOPE to the children of Haiti, one bowl of rice and beans at a time.

P.O. BOX 2910 * LEBANON, TN 37088 * WWW.TRINITYHOPE.ORG

TRINITY HOPE
HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM

Savann Plate



May the God of HOPE fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in Him,

Romans 15:13a

Spring 2024



Bringing HOPE to the children of Haiti, one bowl of rice and beans at a time.

P.O. BOX 2910 * LEBANON, TN 37088 * WWW.TRINITYHOPE.ORG



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



March-May 2024



Confession Is Good for the Soul

Recent events here in the Czech Republic and beyond have been a reminder of the importance of confession. Now mind you, there are two types of confession. One is the confession of sin. The other is the confession of faith. It is that confession of faith of which we speak. While so much of the world and its churches seems to go off in crazy directions, telling God what is right or what is wrong about His Word, the true Church is those who hear the Word of God and receive it. It is as Luther wrote: "For, thank God, a child seven years old knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd." (Smalcald Articles 12.2)

A little while back, a group of faithful Lutherans signed a charter that established an alliance of confessional-minded Lutherans here in central Europe. At that meeting, we were blessed to have Synod President Matthew Harrison, Executor Director of the Office of International Mission, Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, and Rev. James Krikava, who works with church relations for the Synod, as witnesses to the signing. This alliance does not create a new church body but forms a group that can support each other in the ever-challenging world. They are people who are listening to the voice of their Shepherd.

Subscription to God's Word is more than something done by church bodies and pastors. It is also for the individual Christian to keep in mind. We are to be those "who hear the voice of their Shepherd." This year, we were blessed to receive the confession of four young adults who were confirmed. This is the first class since Dale has been pastor here. He has been teaching them weekly for more than two years (even from the States during his chemo treatment). The words of the confirmation liturgy are serious. *Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God? Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church... to be faithful and true? Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully? Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?* We can tell you with joy that they assented to all of those questions. Confession is truly good for the soul!



In the same way, the work in Krakow, Poland, continues with joy. When Dale was there in April, he was asked to bless new communion vessels to be used in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. These faithful Christians in Poland are always happy to receive the blessed gifts of Word and Sacrament. They know that what God's Word says is true for all times. As the Prophet Isaiah bore witness: the word of our God will stand forever. (Isa. 40:8 ESV)



Dale continues to be busy with plenty of catechizing, both young and old. He is teaching a seven-year-old little Lutheran, two Russian Orthodox men, and a Reformed couple from Indonesia. In all these cases, it is about being faithful to God's faithful Word. It is all about Jesus, the Word made flesh.

To God be the glory!





Visitors from the States

Back in March, we were so happy to receive two different groups of college students from the LCMS. The first group was a group of young women from all over the US. The second group was a group from the campus ministry at Indiana University. They both came to discover what sort of opportunities there are for missions. It gave us an opportunity to show that



not just pastors are missionaries. Here in the Czech Republic, we currently have two lay workers, one financial manager, one IT specialist, as well as a theological educator in addition to Dale. There are plenty of opportunities for mission work of all sorts. If you have thought about mission work, even in your retirement years, contact the Office of International Mission. Or you can check out the current short-term list at www.lcms.org/service and click on "Service Opportunities."



Easter Joy

This year, Easter was even more joyous than usual. We had 62 people worshipping with us as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. We ran out of both hymnals and bulletins. A nice problem to have. Following our service, we held a fellowship luncheon, including foods from all over the world. Our worship attendance has been ever-increasing as of late, but we were delightfully surprised at the turnout, which included visitors from the United States. If you are ever in Prague on a Sunday, please come and celebrate God's gifts with us. (Our address is below.)

Conference in Brno

In April, Lutherova společnost (The Luther Society, CZE) and the LCMS hosted a theological conference on the pastoral ministry. The topics included preaching Christ in the 21st century, the Lutheran liturgy as a means of Lutheran identity, and a special



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Czech Republic

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

one led by our brother Martin on catechesis, teaching the mystery of Christ. It gave us all an opportunity to reconnect with what is most basic to the pastoral office: teaching Christ. It was wonderful that we even had lay people



there. These saints need to hold their pastor's feet to the fire. Brother pastors came from as far away as Romania and Norway.

Praying for *your* confession of Christ, Pastor Dale and Suzanne Kaster

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

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

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

— The Henkel Conference —

“Mankind thus unacquainted with God cannot love him; neither can they love one another: ‘He that loveth not knoweth not God’”

Mary Eberstadt

Panola Chair in Christian Culture at the
Catholic Information Center and Senior Research
Fellow at the Faith & Reason Institute
“Title TBA”

Gene Veith, Jr.

Professor of Literature Emeritus at
Patrick Henry College and former culture editor
of *World Magazine*
“Title TBA”

Paul Kengor

Editor of *The American Spectator* and
Professor of Political Science at Grove City College
“American Marxism”

Hans Fiene

Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and
creator of the “Lutheran Satire” channel
“Title TBA”

Donna Harrison

Scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute and
former Chief Executive Officer of the American
Association of Pro-Life OB-GYNs
“Restoring the Oath of Hippocrates”

Sean Daenzer

Director of Worship for the
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
“Title TBA”

Noah Hahn

Instructor of Philosophy at Fordham University
“Title TBA”

Christian Preus

Pastor at Mount Hope Lutheran Church and
Board Chairman at Luther Classical College
“Title TBA”



August 19-20, 2024

610 W Old Hickory Blvd, Madison TN 37115

Registration and info: www.ascensionmadison.com/henkel

Sponsored by:

Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison TN and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville TN



June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 4-6 pm Church Picnic (Warner Park Shelter #3)
2 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Door Offering Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	3 6:30pm AA	4	5 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 7 pm Summer Reading Group: <i>(Dis) Ordered</i>	6	7	8
9 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10 6:30pm AA	11	12 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 7 pm Summer Reading Group: <i>(Dis) Ordered</i>	13	14	15 8:30 Men's Breakfast
16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study <i>Father's Day</i>	17 6:30pm AA	18 6:30 Council	19 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 7 pm Summer Reading Group: <i>(Dis) Ordered</i>	20	21	22
23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 3 pm LWML sponsored shower for Operation Saving Life	24 6:30pm AA	25	26 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study 7 pm Summer Reading Group: <i>(Dis) Ordered</i>	27	28	29
30 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Sunday School & Adult Bible Study						

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