



Redeemer
L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

JUNE 2025 Newsletter



Wednesday Schedule

Bible Study | 9:30am

Worship | 7pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service | 9am

Adult Bible Study | 10:30a

No Kids Sunday Class until fall

520 Thayer Drive, Richland, WA 99352

www.richlandredeemer.org

office@richlandredeemer.org

office: 509-943-4967

office hours: Tues - Thurs 7:30 am - 4pm

Friday 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12-1 daily

FROM THE PASTOR – FINDING REST IN CHRIST – A SUMMER REFLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the summer season, many of us look forward to vacation time—a chance to step back from our regular routines, spend time with family, travel, and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation. Summer often feels like a pause, a much-needed breath of fresh air. But amid the fun and relaxation, it’s also a perfect time to reflect on the importance of *true* rest—the rest that only Christ can give.

Our Lord Jesus Himself invites us to find our rest in Him. In Matthew 11:28–30, He says: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

What a beautiful invitation! Jesus knows the burdens we carry: the stresses of work, the pressures of family life, the worries about health or finances. He knows the weariness that can weigh us down. And so, He calls us not simply to rest in the shade or by the lake but to rest *in Him*.

This summer, as you take time for vacation or simply enjoy a slower pace, remember that God’s gift of rest is more than just time off. It’s an invitation to pause and dwell in His Word, to pray, to worship, and to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. Psalm 46:10 reminds us:

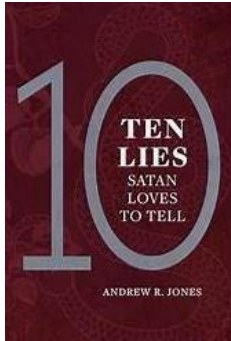
“Be still and know that I am God.”

Being still isn’t easy in our fast-paced, always-connected world. Yet, stillness is essential for spiritual health. Vacations are a wonderful blessing, but let’s also make it a priority to be still before God, to soak in His Word, and to find renewal in His promises.

May this summer be a time of physical rest, spiritual renewal, and joyful thanksgiving for all God’s blessings. May you find rest in Christ, who refreshes our souls for the journey ahead.

Pastor Todd

SUMMER SERMON SERIES – TEN LIES SATAN LOVES TO TELL



June 22 - Week 1 - "You Cannot Trust God"

June 29 - Week 2 - "Your Value is Based on Your Performance"

July 6 - Week 3 - "You Are Alone"

July 13 - Week 4 - "You Are Too Sinful to be Forgiven"

July 20 - Week 5 - "You Need and Deserve More"

July 27 - Week 6 - "You Should Cover Up Your Sins"

Aug. 3 - Week 7 - "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

Aug. 10 - Week 8 - "Your Past Defines You"

Aug. 17 - Week 9 - "You Can't Make a Difference"

Aug. 24 - Week 10 - "God is Holding Out on You"



STEWARDSHIP CORNER – As people saved by God, we show our gratitude not only by thanking and praising Him with our lips but in our actions and deeds. We demonstrate our thankfulness by doing good works which He Himself prepared in advance for us to do (*Ephesians 2:10*). Through His Word and Sacraments, God shares His will with us so that we know the good works that He

calls us to do. Through the renewing of our minds (*Romans 12:2*), God not only tells us of His will, He also gives us the power to perform His tasks. Because God reveals His will and gives us His power, we can be instruments of telling others the Good News, helping the poor and the needy, and sharing God's love with all people. By His grace, we will lead lives that follow His will.



FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHESES will continue through the summer with the next one being on Friday, June 6 at noon. Please note that the July lunch will be moved to July 11 due to Independence Day falling on the first Friday. Bring your

appetite and enjoy the good food and fellowship. Invite a friend!

ELDER'S CORNER – A REFLECTION ON JOHN CHAPTER 16

During the weeks of the Easter celebration, Pastor Todd has read from John 16. This chapter concerns Jesus' farewell to His disciples. Occurring on the eve of His crucifixion, this chapter provides insight into Jesus' final instructions, warnings, and promises.

The chapter opens with a startling warning: "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray" (*John 16:1*). Jesus seeks to prepare the disciples for the hostility they will face after His departure. In verse 2, Jesus explains the extent of this opposition: "They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God." These words resonate with tragic irony, considering that Saul of Tarsus (later the Apostle Paul) would fulfill this prophecy before his own conversion.

Jesus frames persecution not as a failure of their faith, but as a confirmation of their allegiance to Him. The implication is that discipleship involves tension with the world's religious and political structures—those that claim to represent God but reject the living Christ.

Having addressed persecution, Jesus transitions to one of His most significant teachings—the coming of the Holy Spirit. "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away" (*John 16:7*). This statement is astonishing. How could the physical departure of the Son of God be beneficial? The answer lies in the ministry of the Spirit, who will dwell in all believers and continue Jesus' work in the world.

Jesus describes the Spirit's threefold role: "he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement." These three elements form a moral and theological lens through which the world is to be understood.

Next, Jesus addresses the emotional turbulence His disciples will experience. He tells them enigmatically, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me" (v.16). The disciples, understandably, are confused. Jesus clarifies: "You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy" (v.20).

The crucifixion will bring sorrow, but the resurrection will reverse that sorrow into joy. Jesus uses the metaphor of childbirth to illustrate this transformation.

In the final section of the chapter, Jesus moves from metaphor to clarity: “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language” (v.25). The Holy Spirit will give the disciples full understanding. They declare, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech” (v.29). Jesus knows their faith will be tested. “But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me” (v.32).

This moment of honesty highlights Jesus’ grace. He does not rebuke their premature confidence, but acknowledges their human weakness. And yet He offers peace: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (v.33).

This final statement encapsulates the entire message of the chapter. The disciples will be scattered, Jesus will suffer and die, and evil will seem victorious. But this is not the end of the story. Christ’s victory is not merely future-oriented; it is present, assured, and rooted in the eternal plan of God. The cross and resurrection are the means by which Jesus “overcomes” the world—not through violence or power, but through suffering love and obedience.

John 16 is a rich, multi-layered discourse that prepares the disciples for life after Jesus’ departure. It presents a theology of suffering, a vision of spiritual empowerment through the Holy Spirit. The chapter confronts the reality of persecution but sets it within the larger framework of divine victory. It insists that intimacy with God is not hindered by Jesus’ physical absence but is deepened through the Spirit’s presence.

John 16 reminds us that faith does not exempt us from hardship, but it reorients our suffering within the promise of divine purpose. In a world marked by uncertainty and hostility, Jesus’ words echo across the ages:

Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Edgar Buck, Redeemer Elder



JUNE 9 MEETING

All ladies are invited to our monthly meeting on Monday, June 9 at 10am in the Fellowship hall. Come and fellowship and share some craft time with one another.

LADIES, LET'S MAKE A COOKBOOK!

Summer is here when we gather around a good meal and enjoy one another's company. We try new recipes. Each month this summer Lydia Guild will sponsor a potluck in which we bring a dish from one of these categories: hot dish, salad, dessert and fellowship cookies. There will be a poster for each potluck where you can sign up and bring a dish. We will gather pictures of each along with the recipe. (John Strege will take pictures.) At the end of September we will assemble them into binders and offer them for sale with proceeds going to our mite goal of \$2000 (see info below regarding the goal).

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK – SUNDAY, JUNE 15 – 4:00 pm

Don't forget to sign up for the cookbook.

WHERE DO MY MITES GO?

Washington/Alaska LWML 2024-2026 mite goal of \$146,075 has paid out \$55,979 as of January of this year. Lydia Guild would like to challenge the congregation to further that amount by raising \$2000 starting this month and going through March of 2026. Each month a mission project will be highlighted. This month we highlight "Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op".

Please pick up a mite box, fill it with spare change and return it to the office or give to Terry Strege. Be a Missionary by supporting those who work in the field. Join us and share the love of Christ with others.



Concordia Theological Seminary

Food for Seminary Students in Fort Wayne, Indiana

\$1,000



The Food and Clothing Co-op on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary plays a key role in helping students feed and clothe their families during their seminary years. Nearly 60% of students are married, second career, with families. The Food Co-op is currently able to supply between 80% and 85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Because the Co-op is such a vital part of the seminary students' lives, it is important that the seminary continue to raise funds to supply food for the Food Co-op. Our district mission grant will fund perishable items for the Food and Clothing Co-op for the use of students and their families who may be experiencing financial difficulties while attending seminary.



2024-2026 Biennium – LWML Washington-Alaska District

JUNE 2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

The last day of Sunday school was May 18. Thanks to all parents and grandparents for encouraging your children's attendance. We hope to add to our attendance when the next year of Sunday school is held. You are encouraged to begin your children's faith journey.

Teachers and helpers for our Sunday school, youth and adult bible study programs will be recognized as part of our 9am church service on June 1 with cake and treats served in appreciation of their contribution to Redeemer. Redeemer will also recognize two of our youth (Chambray Turner and Brooke Bond) who are graduating from high school this year.

Vacation bible school (VBS) will be held Monday- Friday, June 23-27, 9a-11:30a. Registration has been added to the Redeemer website. The board encourages parents and grandparents to register your kiddos for VBS. You are also encouraged to invite your neighbors to join in the experience of an "An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus".

Several of our youth (Parker Beach and Everett Yarbrough) have registered to go to the July 13 Lutherhaven "Pathfinders Camp". Ava Yarbrough and Kylie Landrum are wait-listed to go to the same camp.

The youth group is making plans to hold a pool party sometime this summer. More information will be provided once a date is chosen.



The youth group did service work for a fellow church member, Ginny Wendland, for our May meeting. The youth worked together to get her yard ready for summer, and it looks beautiful! The kids did a great job pulling weeds, spraying things down, while learning how to make a difference in the lives of others. A huge thank you to the youth who came to help!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Choice Policies and Programs

God works in strange and wonderful ways. As School Committee members move closer to the day they will begin gathering signed commitments to build and operate Redeemer Lutheran School, our federal government moves closer to empowering parents, states, and communities to improve education outcomes via School Choice policies and programs.

A recent *Education Week* story by Mark Lieberman describes how on May 22, 2025 Congress “took a major and unprecedented step toward creating a federal private School Choice Program, as House lawmakers narrowly approved a sweeping legislative package with \$5 Billion in annual tax credits that fuel scholarships and related expenses at K-12 private schools.”

For many parents, School Choice policies and programs can’t come soon enough. Our nation’s public school children are struggling, academically. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has been assessing what U.S. students know and can do since 1969. According to NAEP’s 2024 assessment, “The average reading score for the nation at grade 8 was 2 points lower than 2022 and 5 points lower compared to 2019...and the average math score at eighth grade was not significantly different from 2022 but was 8 points lower compared to 2019.”



Our nation’s public school children are struggling, socially, too. Washington state public schools didn’t fully reopen from COVID-19 shutdowns until the fall of 2021 – making Washington one of the last states in the nation to fully resume in-person public school instruction. Further, in the spring of 2021, Washington state lawmakers implemented Critical Race Theory (CRT) ideology and gender theory in public schools. Compounding an already overwhelming year for students, Washington’s governor signed Senate Bill 5044 May 5, 2021, mandating CRT and gender theory

in public schools, universities, and state agencies.

School Choice policies and programs will likely provide more opportunities for students to attend private schools via *vouchers and scholarships* that help parents pay for tuition and other school costs; state-funded *Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)* parents can use to pay for private school tuition, homeschooling materials, and tutoring; and federal *tax credits* businesses and individuals can receive when donating to organizations that provide private school scholarships.

School Committee members continue to track School Choice progress.

If we don’t teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.



June Birthdays

- 1 Jon Lindberg, Luke Mauth
- 2 Freyja Compton
- 3 Lester Dougherty
- 8 Chris Beach, Lori Bisping, Lynn Bisping, Jamie young
- 9 Carl Garner, Jerrine Gjerdevig
- 11 Hannah Bond
- 12 Bev Kroll
- 13 Kathie Zaloudek
- 14 Troy Grall
- 19 John Cagle, Curt Gjerdevig
- 21 Dale Groeber
- 25 Beth Ruff
- 26 Rick Engelmann
- 28 Lynn Weldon
- 29 Pam Bobiles

Anniversaries

- 6 Pastor Todd & Gina Schroeder
- 12 Dick & June Jaquish, Ryan & Natalie Whitten
- 14 Chuck & Herm Fordham
- 19 Tom & Marge Valenti
- 23 Dee & Peggy McDorman
- 25 Randy & Kim Dykeman, Jerry & Lynn Weldon

July Birthdays

- 4 Ken Wendland, Taylor Gant
- 5 Dick Jaquish
- 6 John Paul
- 7 Marlene Paris-Ufkes
- 8 Kathy Fisher
- 9 John Schug
- 10 Karl Mundt
- 11 Paul Mellick
- 13 Ona Meyer
- 14 Valarie Milbrath, Bernie Simpkins, Riley Yarbrough,
Amelia Rebic
- 15 Angela Landrum, Stephanie Milbrath
- 17 Kylie Landrum
- 19 Jody Schug
- 20 Lonnie Turner
- 21 Dan Rogers
- 25 Roland Niemuth, Denise Rogers
- 26 Ginny Wendland
- 29 Ashleigh Beach
- 30 Kim Dykeman

July Anniversaries

- 1 Ed & Beth Ruff
- 3 Thom & Judy Nash
- 7 Brian & Stephanie Milbrath, Howard & Jamie Young
- 10 Will & Angela Landrum
- 12 Vic & Heather Garza
- 15 Robert & Elsa Beppe
- 16 Axel & Mary Gruen
- 18 Rick & Ramona Engelmann
- 25 Riley & Kelsey Yarbrough
- 29 Paul & Deb Werner
- 31 Pastor Laurence & Ona Meyer

PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Chuck Fordham
Sally Grego
Miriam Hagedorn
Elaine Kutrowski
Marj Littlejohn
Pearl Raabe
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Bobbie Van Buren
Bev Wetzler
Gregg Lee* (son of
Barbara Lee)
Jody Schug* (wife of
John Schug)
Phillip Turner*

HOMEBOUND:

Gloria Bentley
Marilyn DeRoche
Cheryl Evenson
Dale Groeber
Miriam Hagedorn
Elaine Kutrowski
Joy Ledgerwood
Marj Littlejohn
Pearl Raabe
Ann Robbins
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Ken Sump
Dorothy Thieme
Phil Turner
Lynn Weldon
Bev Wetzler

MILITARY:

Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

CANCER:

Bob Littlejohn
Denise Rogers
John Schug
Barbara Connell* (sister-in-
law of Sandy Guymon)
Phyllis Delvin (daughter of
Wally Ruff)
Rev. James & Ann Gier*
(son & daughter-in-law of
Marlene Paris-Ufkes)
Kevin Raabe* (son of Pearl
Raabe)
Sandi Sheeley* (sister of
Karin Nickola)
Deanna Snider*

