



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

SEPTEMBER 2025
Newsletter



Wednesday Schedule

Bible Study | 9:30am

Worship | 7pm

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service | 9am

Adult Bible Study | 10:30a

**Sunday School/Confirmation |
10:15a**

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

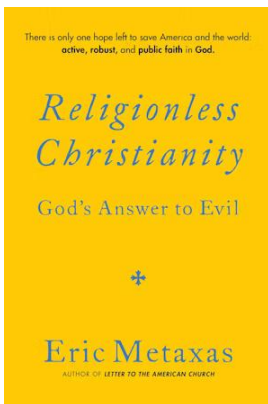
Looking Ahead

As we turn the calendar to September, there's a familiar rhythm that returns to church life. After the slower pace of summer, the church begins to buzz again—Sunday School resumes, confirmation classes return, and groups re-gather for fellowship, learning, and service.

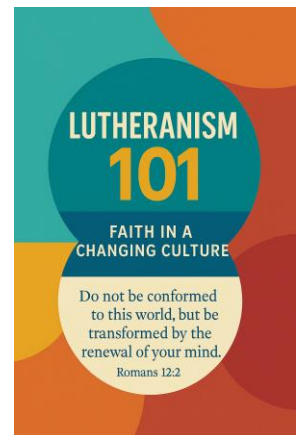
This summer, we journeyed through the sermon series "The 10 Lies We Tell Ourselves (and Believe)". Week by week, we held up those falsehoods—"I'm not good enough," "God won't forgive me," "I'm on my own"—to the light of God's Word. We named them for what they are: lies that distort our view of ourselves and of God. But more importantly, we heard again and again the greater truth of God's grace, mercy, and presence. In a world full of confusion and deception, Jesus remains the way, the truth, and the life. As we step into a new season, may that truth continue to anchor and guide us.

Fall also brings fresh opportunities for connection and growth. Our Men's Group will kick things off with the annual Steak Fry at Rob Snider's house on Saturday, September 13 at 5pm—a great evening of food, fellowship, and encouragement in Christ. (Bring a friend!)

Looking ahead to October, Pastor will begin a new Sunday afternoon class: "Lutheranism 101: Faith in a Changing Culture"—a six-week series starting October 5, designed to help us think faithfully and biblically about what it means to be Lutheran today.



And for those wanting to go deeper into Christian cultural engagement, Pastor will also lead a new book study on "Religionless Christianity" by Eric Metaxas, following up on last fall's thoughtful conversations around "Letters to the American Church."



So much lies ahead—but let's not rush past the gifts God brings today. As Lamentations reminds us, "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning*" (Lamentations 3:22–23). Let's receive those new mercies with grateful hearts and walk together in God's truth this fall.

FAITH IN REAL LIFE: NEW SERMON SERIES



How does faith connect with the everyday world we live in? Too often, we think of faith as something reserved for Sunday morning. But the truth is our faith in Christ speaks into the real situations, choices, and struggles we face every day.

Starting Wednesday, August 27 and Sunday, August 31, we'll begin a 3-week sermon series called **"Faith in Real Life"**. Using three simple but powerful everyday objects, we'll see how God's Word teaches us humility, commitment, and the joy of being found by His grace.

Wednesday, August 27 and Sunday, August 31 – "The Reserved Sign" (Proverbs 25:2-10; Hebrews 13:1-17; Luke 14:1-14). In a world that fights for the best seats, Jesus teaches us that the way up is actually down. True greatness is found in humble service, as Christ Himself shows us.

Wednesday, September 3 and Sunday, September 7 – "The Fine Print" (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-35). We don't always read the fine print, but Jesus makes it clear: discipleship has a cost. Following Him means carrying the cross—but He has already paid the price for our salvation.

Wednesday, September 10 and Sunday September 14 – "The Missing Piece" (Ezekiel 34:11-24; 1 Timothy 1:5-17; Luke 15:1-10). God's kingdom is not complete until every piece is gathered in. He relentlessly seeks the lost, rejoices when they are found, and calls us to share in His joy.

Come and discover how God's Word speaks into our everyday lives, pointing us always to Christ who humbled Himself, carried the cross for us, and sought us when we were lost. Together, let's live out our faith in real life!

ELDER'S CORNER - CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE SACRAMENT

The banner in Richland Redeemer Lutheran Church for the past few weeks has displayed a quote from Proverbs 3:5.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,"

It is a wonderful expression that I need to heed, but for the moment, excuse me for the following little discussion that I have been pondering.

Molecules such as water (H_2O) are never lost - they just re-circulate on the planet. The water you drink today may once have passed through oceans, clouds, and countless living creatures over thousands of years. There are about $1E46$ water molecules on Earth, the molecules from long ago are thoroughly mixed into the world's air, water, and food supply (note: $1E46$ is 1 with 46 zeros). What does that mean for the Last Supper? Jesus and His disciples shared bread and wine that night. A cup of wine might contain $1E25$ water molecules. Over 2000 years, those molecules have been recycled repeatedly. When Pastor Todd fills the chalice during the Sacrament, it almost certainly contains not one but thousands of molecules that were once in Jesus' cup.

This is a classical 'Fermi Problem' that we can estimate mathematically using the Poisson distribution. We calculate a value, λ , which is the number of molecules in the wine that Jesus served multiplied by the number of molecules in the Richland Redeemer Lutheran Chalice, divided by the number of molecules of water on the planet. Then the probability of finding at least one is:

$$P(\text{at least 1}) = 1 - e^{(-\lambda)}$$

If λ is small (like 0.1), the chance is low (about 9%). But if λ is larger (like 5), the chance is over 99%! In the Last Supper case, λ is ~ 1000 . That's why we can say with confidence that every chalice of wine and each little cup today contains many thousands of molecules that were once present in the bread and wine of the Last Supper. That is an interesting thought that even the likes of Richard Dawkins cannot reject.

But for us as Lutherans, it is not the reason we hold the Sacrament sacred. Whether or not today's bread and wine contain ancient molecules is irrelevant to our faith. Our confidence is in Christ's words:

"Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my Blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' " (Matthew 26:27-28).

We believe, teach, and confess that Christ's true body and blood are present under the bread and wine - not because of molecules circulating through history, but because He promises to be there. The President of the LCMS Church wrote recently about the Sacrament,

"Whether or not we can understand it rationally, this must be true because Christ says it's true." Pastor M.C. Harrison, *The Lutheran Witness*, August 2025, pg. 5.

The science shows us something amazing about God's creation, but the Sacrament gives us something greater still: the very body and blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Edgar Buck (Elder)

The Fermi Problem is named for the Italian physicist, Enrico Fermi, who worked at Hanford on the Manhattan Project. A classic example that students are given in Chemistry classes is the probability of breathing an air molecule from Cesar's last breath.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER – DANGERS OF MATERIALISM

We live in a land of plenty, which promotes its own twist on contentment. Its version is “buy and possess.” Our culture is geared far more to the material than the spiritual. Our society tells us that we need and deserve more, and that life is not complete unless we have the finest homes and cars plus wealth and success. We are led to believe that happiness and contentment are within our reach if we just acquire a few more things. Advertisements are geared to make us feel discontent so that we will buy more things to make us happy.

Greed will not allow contentment, because it always urges us to acquire more. No matter how hard we try, we cannot be satisfied by worldly things. There is truth in the old adage, “The more one gets the more one wants.” The love of money can potentially possess a person’s life like no other emotion can. A person can spend a lifetime chasing prosperity that, when found, often destroys him as discussed in the following story:

A ship full of men sailed to an island to look for gold. When they arrived, they divided into two groups. One group would dig for gold; the other would plant crops and prepare the food. As time went on, they found gold. More of the men who prepared the food began to dig for gold. As more men came to the island, most of them also dug for gold. Even the ship was torn apart so the wood could be used to support the mineshafts. The story ends when some time later, people visited the island and found skeletons draped over vast treasures. Greed had taken over; and they had completely missed their meaning and purpose in life.

Money has been called the “the god of those who have too much and the goal of those who have too little.” Blessed indeed is the person who avoids these extremes. Our goal as God’s people is to seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness. He has promised to take care of our needs.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR IRONMAN WEEKEND



Due to the Ironman Tri-Cities event on Sunday, September 21, and the major traffic disruptions expected in our area, the Board of Elders has decided to move our worship service for that weekend.

Instead of meeting on Sunday morning, we will gather for worship on Saturday evening, September 20, at 7:00 PM here at the church.

This change will help everyone avoid the blocked roads and traffic congestion while still allowing us to worship together as a church family.

Please mark your calendars and help spread the word. We look forward to seeing you Saturday evening for a special time of worship and fellowship!

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
—Hebrews 10:25



PARKING IN FRONT OF OFFICE

We kindly ask that you refrain from parking *along the grass* by the office as this has led to damaged sprinkler heads that have needed replacing. If there are no parking slots available in the front parking lot, feel free to park on the street or use the parking lot in the back of the church. Thank you for understanding.



FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH is on Sept. 5 at noon. Everyone welcome! Bring your appetites!



MEN'S GROUP begins the new year with their annual steak fry at the home of Rob Snider, 5011 Arthur Lane, Pasco, on Saturday, September 13 at 5pm. Bring your own meat to grill, beverage of choice and a lawn chair and enjoy the good food, fellowship and devotion.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sunday school kickoff is on Sunday September 7 for grades Preschool through 5th. The board sent out cards inviting all children to attend Sunday school. This invitation included children who attended VBS. Please pray for the Spirit to touch the hearts of their families that they would feel welcome to attend Sunday school.

The board thanks our Sunday school teachers and helpers (Terry Strege, Robin Buck, Jan Spencer and Heidi Rebic) for early childhood and elementary classes. Lessons for both classes are on-hand.

Confirmation class will begin on September 14.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group met at the home of Chris and Kristi Beach and enjoyed spending time in their beautiful backyard playing games, swimming, eating, and fellowship. We had a great turnout despite the 100-degree weather, and eight of our youth came out, plus their parents! If anyone would like to learn more about our youth group, please email Riley or Kelsey Yarbrough at riley.yarbrough83@gmail.com. We had a fun turnout for the pool party for our June get-together. It is fun to see the kids having a good time together!



Three of our youth (Everett & Ava Yarbrough, and Parker Beach) attended Lutherhaven in July and wish to thank Redeemer Lutheran for the prayers and support. They had a wonderful time and hope to do it again next year!

The Board gives thanks to Robin Buck and LaVada Mundt for remodeling the youth room. Gone are many of the bean bag chairs, basketball hoop and miscellaneous clutter. Added to the room are paint, updated lighting, a new table and chairs for use by the confirmation class and youth group gaming, carpet cleaning, and bulletin and whiteboards.



REDEEMER'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Thanks to all who made our school supply project a HUGE success! We delivered 43 filled backpacks to our neighborhood grade school, Marcus Whitman. Those backpacks will be distributed to families that can be most helped. Your generosity and enthusiasm in donating school supplies was a much appreciated blessing to families in our community.



Redeemer Lutheran School Committee

School Choice Progress

The School Committee reported in its June 2025 newsletter article that on May 22, 2025 Congress “narrowly approved a sweeping legislative package with \$5 Billion in annual tax credits that fuel scholarships and related expenses at K-12 private schools.” School Committee members continue to track School Choice progress. An update follows.

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed *House Resolution 1* into law. The 330-page *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* establishes a federal tax credit for contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations, beginning January 1, 2027. The *Educational Choice for Children Act* (a *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* provision) received very little media coverage; but Oregon State’s *Coalition for School Choice* calls the legislation, “the most significant advance in school choice at the federal level in American history, to date.”

Under the *Educational Choice for Children Act*, a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) receives a donor’s 501(c)(3) non-profit donation and provides it to a student as a scholarship. The scholarship can only be used for qualified education expenses – tuition, curriculum, curricular materials, books, instructional materials, online education materials, tutoring, testing fees, dual enrollment fees at a higher educational institution, and educational therapies for students with disabilities.



Under the *Educational Choice for Children Act*:

1. Qualified individuals can donate up to \$1,700 per tax year to an SGO providing scholarships to eligible students – and the tax credit is “dollar for dollar,”
2. 90% or more of all SGO contributions received must be spent on student scholarships,
3. There is no sunset clause – so the program won’t expire after several years,
4. Students eligible for scholarships must be members of households with incomes not exceeding 300% of the area’s gross median income – so most students are eligible, and
5. The SGO must prioritize scholarships for students and/or for siblings awarded scholarships the previous year.

If there are “down sides” to the *Educational Choice for Children Act*, they are these:

1. A state must opt into the program – which may be challenging in “blue” states, and
2. A state could impose curriculum requirements impossible for religious schools to accept.



Lydia Guild meets on the 2nd Monday of the month (Sept. 8th) in the Fellowship Hall at **10:00am**.

Wilma Gardner, our Zone President, will talk about the 2025 convention that was held in Omaha, Nebraska in June.

Also, we will be talking about the **Washington/Alaska retreat** at Clover Island Inn in Kennewick. An ingathering will be collected for Grace Clinic, the Tri-Cities only free clinic. These are the things we will be collecting:

Copy paper

Postage stamps

Disinfecting wipes

Kitchen size plastic trash bags

Hygiene items such as:

Shampoo, body wash, toothpaste

Gift cards: Costco, Amazon

If possible, bring the ingathering items to the meeting or contact Terry Strege. If going to the retreat you may bring them to Clover Island.

We are getting closer to our \$2000.00 Mite Goal. Please give your mite donations to either Terry Strege or Ronda Wolfe. If you would like to donate through the plate, please make your check out to Redeemer and put *Lydia Guild mites* in the memo line.

We have agreed to host the board of directors and zone presidents luncheon on Friday, September 26th. We will make coffee/tea and some light snacks (muffins, fruit or your choice) on Friday morning, lunch at noon which will be protein-rich sandwiches, salad or soup and include a light dessert or cookies and beverages (coffee, tea or juices and water). If you can help serve that day or help with food preparation, or if you have ideas as to what to serve please contact Terry Strege.

Ladies: September is a busy Month - we have lots to talk about and plan for so please plan to attend the meeting on Monday Sept. 8th at 10:00 Fellowship Hall.

NEHLM UPDATE

Greetings,

Sunday, August 10th, was the 24th Anniversary Service for Rev. Paul's church in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. They had over four hundred people attend. Rev. Eliona Bernard, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), was present along with Rev. Gergens of Cap Haitian. They also had eight Haitian Christian pastors of other church bodies in Ouanaminthe in attendance. Rev. Paul said to those who pray and support this ministry, "Thanks ever so much for all you and NEHLM have been doing to make this ministry so great. May God continue to bless you." What a joy to see the Word of the Lord growing through this ministry.

Attached is a photo of the seven students who finished the Filo (Final) Class at College Evangelique le Lutherien de Ouanaminthe (CELO). The Filo Class is their thirteenth year of school. The students must pass some challenging standardized tests to be a high school graduate.

The ministry is busy with their gardens and getting things prepared for the upcoming school year. There are needs for uniforms, curriculum, teachers' salary, and supplies. On the web page are some approximate expenses for schooling. Also on the web page is a 58-second video from the worship service.

God's peace,

Rev. Samuel Wiseman
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser
nehlm.org



In His Image

A Christian Conversation on Navigating
Identity and Sexuality in a Confused World



Sat. Nov. 15th from 9 am - 3 pm

Registration Deadline October, 31st 2025



Rev. David K. Fleming



Dr. Beverly Yanke
Clinical Psychologist

Hosted by Doxology, a Registered Service
Organization of the LCMS

September Birthdays

- 2 Kyle Mauth
- 3 Jay Van Buren, Donna Hoopingarner
- 4 Jan Spencer
- 5 Rick Stutheit, Carla Thieme
- 7 Andy Grego
- 8 Marge Valenti
- 10 Nate Gruz
- 13 Trisha Beitz, Rebecca Gant
- 15 Annashod Beitz, Paul Julson
- 17 Wanda Krumland
- 19 John Strege, Brian Krumland, Everett Yarbrough
- 22 Geri Redeker
- 23 Ann Robbins, Parker Beach
- 25 Marj Littlejohn
- 26 Michael Reuter
- 27 Susie Nunamaker
- 28 Robert Young II
- 29 Jen Turner

Anniversaries

- 1 Bob & Katje Compton
- 2 Rick & Shirley Stutheit, Troy & Marci Grall
- 11 Sash & Marsha Eirich
- 15 Roy & Ronda Wolfe
- 25 Mike & Liesl Batdorf
- 27 Malcolm & Bev Kroll
- 28 Dan & Gina Morgan

October Birthdays

- 1 Brooke Bond
- 4 Robert Bepple, Edgar Buck
- 6 Twilene Shanks
- 7 Miriam Hagedorn
- 11 Barbara Lee, Mark Reeder
- 13 Elliott Rebic
- 16 Aubrey Bepple, Susie Lindberg, Chuck Fordham
- 19 Will Landrum
- 20 Wayne Roundy, Shirley Clarkson
- 26 Tanner Beach
- 27 Elsa Bepple, Kim Riordan, Lacey Turner
- 29 Roy Wolfe
- 30 Gunner Grall, Steve Gano
- 31 Gary Sebade

Anniversaries

- 4 John & Karin Cagle
- 19 Ben & Gail Kroll



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
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
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
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*

