



July 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



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BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
360.384.5923

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Sunday Worship Service Schedule

9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

August Newsletter deadline is
Friday, July 25, 2025

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From the Pastor's Pen



Summer is officially upon us. Soon we will be celebrating our nation's birth with picnics, fireworks, parades and more on July 4th. Here at Redeemer, we'll be having our church picnic on July 13th. As summer moves into full swing, and as we pause to celebrate the holiday known as Independence Day, just what is our role as Christians within our country?

While one might go to any number of books, websites or social media posts to do so, I suggest we go to a resource that every one of you should have: Luther's Small Catechism. The catechism speaks to the role of the Christian in their country? Yes! It's found in that little known part called the "Table of Duties." In this Table, we see concrete expressions of our duty to "thank and praise, serve and obey" our heavenly Father (as the First Article of the Creed concludes).¹ As Christians, we live in three "estates" which are: Family, Civic, and Church. It is the Civic estate that we are considering.

As soon as you were born in this country, you became a citizen. As citizens, we have governmental rights and privileges. We also have obligations. As citizens, we live under authority. All people, in all nations, live under some sort of authority. All authority is from God, and those in government authority are placed there as God's servants (Roman 13:1-4).² Scripture tells us that as citizens under governmental authority, we owe our government taxes and respect. *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's"* (Matthew 22:21). *"Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed"* (Romans 13:5-7).

As citizens in our country, we have the right and privilege to participate in government. Whether that is simply voting (which many people in many places don't get to do), or running for some public office, we are blessed to be able to participate in actions/activities that are for the benefit of our neighbors. And that, dear Christian, is key for us to remember. Our chief role/responsibility/aim in our participation in the Civic realm is not for ourselves, but for the benefit of our neighbor.

¹ Pless, John T. *Didache*, Fort Wayne, IN, Emmanuel Press, 2013, page 47.

² *Ibid.* page 48.

Luther, in his “On the Freedom of a Christian” wrote: “We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor.”³

While we have rights and privileges as citizens, we also have Christian obligations to our government. Chief among them is prayer. 1 Timothy 2:1-3 says, *“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior”* Imagine that! Paul, who would soon be executed (possibly by Nero) urged Christians to pray for their ruling authorities. Why? So that they would be able to lead a quiet and peaceful life.

Paul, and Peter, also urged Christians to lives of submissive obedience to their leaders (Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

We have much to be thankful for living in our country. We have blessings that others, in other countries, do not have. Yet we need to remember that “this world is not our home.” We are citizens of a better country. Hebrews 11:13-16 reminds us: *“These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”*

God has done all that for us through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. While we get to, through our roles and responsibilities as citizens, do what we can to make our city, state, and/or country a better place to live; God was *“in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation”* (2 Corinthians 5:19). We get to take that message of reconciliation to our neighbors. May we do so, not just in word, but in loving service to those neighbors.

Have a happy and safe 4th of July, and see you in church...

Pastor Rex E. Watt

³ Martin Luther, Luther's Works, Vol. 31: Career of the Reformer I, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut Lehmann, vol. 31 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 371.



July Birthdays

07/02 Brian Cobb
 07/05 Linda Montgomery
 07/08 Dale Kloes
 07/08 Tonya Lysne
 07/15 John Flarry
 07/19 Susanne Martinsen
 07/21 Colin Grabish
 07/27 Jon Dixon
 07/27 Carol Kloes
 07/28 Wendy McLeod

August Birthdays

08/02 Helen Granger
 08/09 Shelby Hogle
 08/11 Joseph Stephens
 08/13 Dale Harshman
 08/17 Marianne Giusti
 08/22 Hunter Kuljis
 08/25 Cindy McKay
 08/26 Jan Willand
 08/27 Alton Kimes
 08/29 George Leonard



July Anniversaries

07/04 George & Ann Leonard
 07/09 Travis & Shannon Kimes
 07/10 Louis & Heidi Kuljis
 07/25 Joe & Jamie Dupuis
 07/27 Carl & Mary Ann Olsen

*As the angels sing heavenly praises for our God above,
 As the dawn touches the Earth **with its soft rays,**
 As another chapter of your life starts anew,
 I wish that God will grant you your heart's greatest desire
 And your presence endows peace to others
 as refreshing as the morning dew.
 Have a blessed and wonderful birthday or anniversary!*

Note: If your birthday or wedding anniversary is not listed on this page or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office so we can make the correction.



Elder Care List

A - Hah: Doug Bender (Head Elder)
 Hal - Li: Kari Marttila
 Lu - Pa: Anthony McLeod
 Po - Z: Colin Grabish



Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

July 06 - Wendy McLeod & Janet Baeder
 July 13 - Red, White & Blue Church Picnic
 July 20 - Annette Dixon & Leslie Rogers
 July 27 - Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – JULY

Altar Care

The Olsen's

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
July 06	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Corinne Thorsen	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron
July 13	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Connor Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Travis
July 20	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Ross Abbe	Kari Marttila	Wendy/Corinne
July 27	Doug/Anthony	Anthony McLeod	Joe Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Jon/Ron



JULY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		01 6:30 pm: Elders	02 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	03	04 office closed 	05
06 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	07 office closed	08	09 Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	10	11	12 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
13 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Red, White & Blue Church Picnic	14 office closed	15 6:30 pm: Council	16 Bulletin Deadline	17	18 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	19
20 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	21 office closed	22	23 Bulletin Deadline Saltshaker Deadline	24 1:00 pm: Peggy Hind Memorial	25	26
27 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	28 office closed	29	30	31		

The Bulletin Board

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: *Thank you for your faithful giving!*

DEVOTIONALS: “Our Daily Bread” for June - August and “Portals of Prayer” for July - September are available on the offering table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. A study of the book of Exodus, led by Jon Dixon.

MEN’S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST: A Study of Proverbs led by Anthony McLeod. 8:00 am the first Saturday of each month here at the church. **This month the meeting will be on the second Saturday, July 12th.**

LWML BIBLE STUDY: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A study of Luther’s Small Catechism. **The next meeting will be on Friday, July 18th.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. A study on the book of Ruth, led by Lynnata Marttila.

“RED, WHITE & BLUE” CHURCH PICNIC: Sunday, July 13th. Please look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to RSVP and to sign-up to bring items.



Looking ahead to fall Sunday School...

Children’s Sunday school will be starting in the fall on September 7th. The Board of Education will be looking for volunteers to share God’s love with our students. **There will be a short meeting on Sunday, August 3rd after fellowship time for those interested in volunteering or just want more information.**

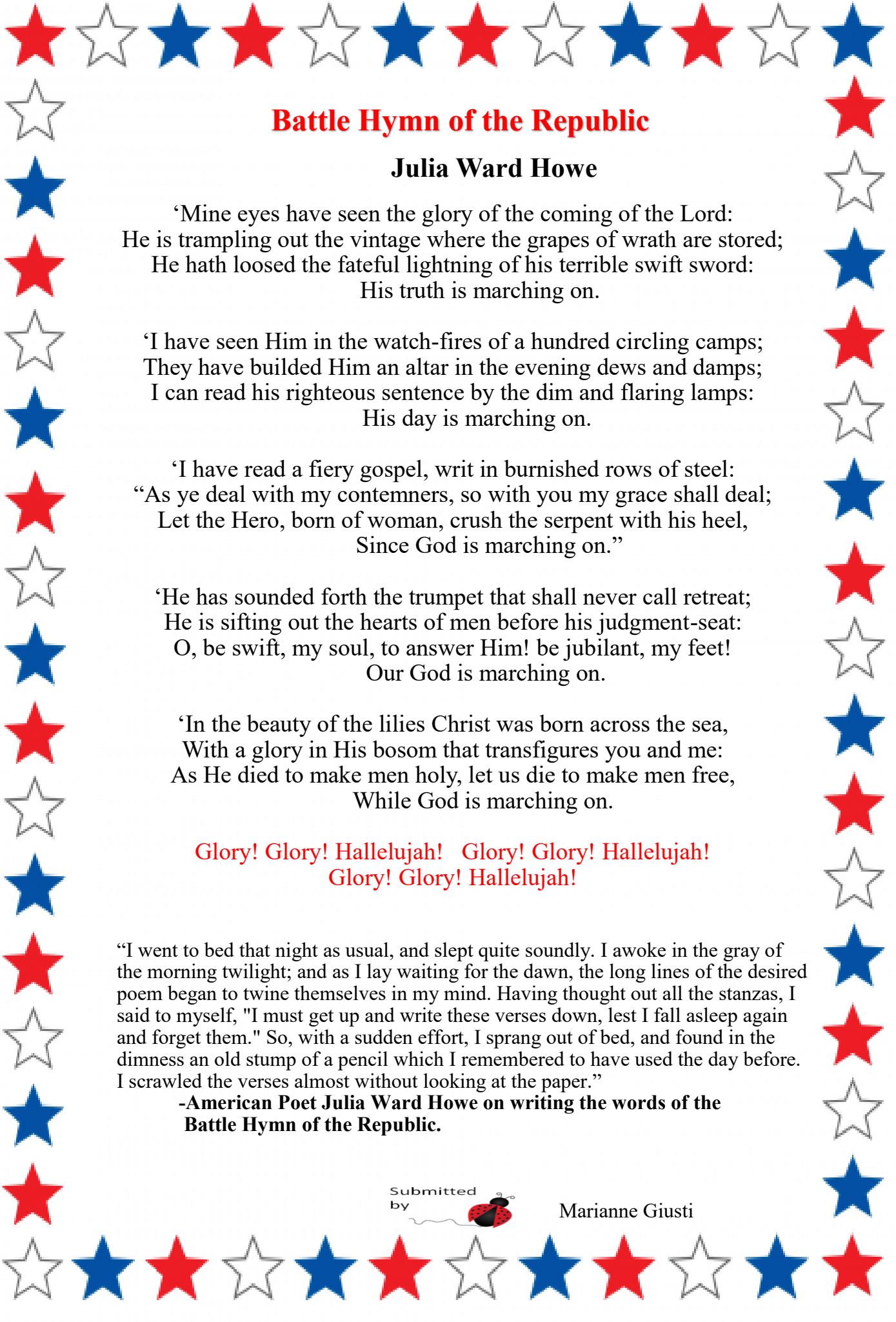
“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6



Father's Day Fellowship!





Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe

‘Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

‘I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.

‘I have read a fiery gospel, writ in burnished rows of steel:
“As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal;
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel,
Since God is marching on.”

‘He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment-seat:
O, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

‘In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

“I went to bed that night as usual, and slept quite soundly. I awoke in the gray of the morning twilight; and as I lay waiting for the dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to twine themselves in my mind. Having thought out all the stanzas, I said to myself, "I must get up and write these verses down, lest I fall asleep again and forget them." So, with a sudden effort, I sprang out of bed, and found in the dimness an old stump of a pencil which I remembered to have used the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.”

**-American Poet Julia Ward Howe on writing the words of the
Battle Hymn of the Republic.**

Submitted
by 

Marianne Giusti

RED, WHITE & BLUE

- REDEEMER FAMILY PICNIC -

**- FOR YOU - YOUR FAMILY - YOUR FRIENDS -
- YOUR NEIGHBORS -**

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

SUNDAY – JULY 13th

(Following worship)

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs & Drinks Provided
*In the Narthex, **PLEASE SIGN-UP** with # of*
people attending (for planning purposes)

AND

PLEASE SIGN-UP for the potluck food items

“FUN” for All

“GREAT FOOD” for All

“GREAT FELLOWSHIP” for All

“GAMES & PRIZES” for All

**“PLEASE JOIN US IN THE JOY OF
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP”**

Any questions, please contact Annette Dixon, Tami Marcos or Leslie Rogers



Authentic
Vienna
Apple
Strudel

Make and Bake Tea Party

Baking

Fellowship

FUN!





Fun
Facts
About
Austria

Enjoying
the
Delicious
Dessert!

Tea Party!





Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?

2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – July 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 School Year...
Here are some items on our *Wish List*!



- Sand (bags of sand from Dollar tree or wherever) 24 bags
- Crayola Markers (10 ct.) 10 each
- Crayola Colored Pencils (12 ct.) 10 each
- Cans of Ply-doh assorted colors - 24
- Clorox wipes (Costco packs)
- Dollar Tree gift cards
- Michaels gift cards
- Hobby Lobby gift cards



**Redeemer Lutheran
Preschool**

Ages 3 1/2 to 5 YRS

Call 384-5923



**Now enrolling
for the
2025-2026
School year!**



Lutheran's For Life Quotes: July 06 & 20

“As you walk the path of life with your neighbor, learn and celebrate the depth and breadth of the infinite worth of their life—whether they are preborn, homeless, destitute, dying, friend, or foe. Learn, through the trials set before you and the sacrifices you make to improve the life of your neighbor, the awesome worth of life. Life is sacred. Every life matters.” *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“Sometimes the answer to a problem is as simple as asking for help. Let’s not hesitate to bring all our questions, troubles, and needs to the Lord. Thank Him for the people He provides for our help. Pray that He will give you the opportunity today to be His help to others.” *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stay connected to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

IF YOU WANT HELP UNDERSTANDING the world from a Lutheran perspective:

The Lutheran Witness (lcms.org/witness)

IF YOU LIKE HEARING directly from the president and other members of the president’s office: Witness, Mercy, Life Together blog (wmltblog.org)

IF YOU WANT TO CONNECT with other LCMS Lutherans: LCMS Facebook (facebook.com/thelcms), Twitter (@thelcms), Instagram (thelcms) and Periscope.

IF YOU WANT TO HEAR from LCMS leadership: Leader blog ([blogs.lcms.org, category/leader-blog](http://blogs.lcms.org/category/leader-blog))

IF YOU’RE SEARCHING for stories of the Church in action:

Lutherans Engage the World (lcms.org/lutheransengage)

IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR NEWS: *Reporter* (blogs.lcms.org/reporter)

IF YOU CAN’T GET ENOUGH of all things mission:

Journal of Lutheran Mission (lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission)

IF YOU WANT IT ALL: LCMS News and Publications (blogs.lcms.org)



Free Cards



SHARE GOD’S WORD BY USING FREE GIDEON CARDS

How would you like to extend the missionary outreach of our church to some 200 countries around the world? You are encouraged to use Gideon cards to send the Word and Change a Life!

Every time you send a Gideon card, your donation for Bibles will send God’s Word to someone who desperately needs it—perhaps in your own neighborhood or somewhere else around the world.

Gideon cards can be given in the memory of someone special (sympathy cards) or for any special occasion, and that’s a life-changing difference!

Check out the display of free Gideon cards in our church. Where are they? They are on the wooden shelf at the back wall in the fellowship room. Help yourself. Then, let these cards acknowledge your gift in memory or in honor of someone, and provide Bibles, helping fulfill the Great Commission. Thank you for sharing God’s Word around the world.