



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

SUMMER 2026

TRUSTING HIS ACTION

“COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD; TRUST IN HIM, AND HE WILL ACT. HE WILL BRING FORTH YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE LIGHT, AND YOUR JUSTICE AS THE NOONDAY.” -PSALM 37:5-6

Beloved in the Lord,

A time of transition is upon us once more. The remainder of May before us and the coming months will likely look quite a bit different than the last six to nine months. Schools are getting out for the summer, graduation ceremonies and parties are on-going, the weather seems to be threatening to finally make the jump from less-winter or second-winter to summer (what is spring anyway?), the time for vacations, traveling, and outdoor activities and responsibilities are finally upon us. In some ways, life slows down from the day-to-day grind, but in other ways it speeds up with all the summertime opportunities.

The Church Year is in transition, too. We move from the Season of our Lord (Advent to Trinity Sunday) to the Season of the Church (the Sundays after Pentecost and the long green season). The focus of these months, while still on Jesus, is about Jesus sending us, the growing of the Church, the going out with the foundation of faith that Jesus has laid. In some ways, life slows down without midweek services or catechesis and a curbing of some of the at-church activities, but in other ways, it speeds up; "How is it already Sunday again?"

Some of us may have most of our summer already planned out and what we are going to do each week or weekend, or at least most of them. Others may have no idea or nothing special planned. In either case, what is to come this summer and in the next year likely carries a fair bit of the unknown or may include something new. That could be exciting, but it could also be concerning or unnerving as we stretch our "normal," our "routine," and our boundaries to new or different things, whether those things are in or outside of the church.

Like being a new graduate, the part of life that is to come may be new or different, but we do not walk into it with no foundation or understanding. In every season of

life, every transition or routine and ordinary moment, it is built upon the foundation of what has come before. Whatever lies ahead of you in your life and wherever you may go, you do not go unequipped, empty handed, or unprepared. No, you have a Helper. You go with the foundation of all that we have seen and heard in the Season of our Lord. Jesus became incarnate for you, born of Mary, at Christmas, true Man who revealed Himself to be true God through His miracles and preaching throughout Epiphany, who loved you, suffered for you, and died for you throughout Lent and rose for you at Easter. He has showed and proven His love, the love of God, for you in deeply profound and personal ways. He promises to be with you always even as He is ascended into heaven where He rules and reigns with power and authority that is active and ongoing for you as you and the Church are sent into new or different adventures, opportunities, and challenges.

You go as one loved by God. You go as one who has heard and seen the salvation that He wins and delivers to you. You go as one blessed and accompanied by the whole of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You go with the One who is trustworthy and true. So whatever lies ahead, whatever is uncertain, unnerving, or unsettling, settle your heart and your mind on the God who has done so much for you. Commit your way to Him. Trust in Him. He will act. He will bring forth righteousness, declare you righteous, and He just may even make others righteous through you that they would rejoice in the hope in us that we have eternal life through Jesus Christ, our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord who will return again to bring justice.

In Christ's foundation,
Pastor Simek

OSTEOPOROSIS

This May, let's step up for stronger bones! Osteoporosis typically develops without symptoms, so many people don't realize their bones are getting weaker until they experience a break. But with awareness and action, we can change that.

About 54 million Americans have osteoporosis and low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis. Studies suggest that approximately one in two women and up to one in four men age 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one can't feel bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis or a patient may notice that he or she is getting shorter or their upper back is curving forward.

Osteoporosis means "porous bone." Viewed under a microscope, healthy bone looks like a honeycomb. When osteoporosis occurs, the holes and spaces in the honeycomb are much larger than in healthy bone. Osteoporotic bones have lost density or mass and contain abnormal tissue structure. As bones become less dense, they weaken and are more likely to break. If you're 50 or older ask your doctor or healthcare provider about a bone density test.

The rate of bone loss varies from person to person. But around midlife, bones become thinner. Many things influence how fast or slow you lose bone:

- your activity level
- how much calcium you get
- family history
- your history of taking certain medications, like corticosteroids or others that suppress the immune system

- your lifestyle habits, such as whether you smoke or how much alcohol you consume
- whether you have certain chronic diseases that affect the kidneys, lungs, stomach, and intestines or hormone levels
- the onset of menopause

There is no single "silver bullet" remedy for osteoporosis. It takes a whole-person approach.

You can't prevent all bone loss because some loss happens with age. But you can take certain steps to slow down bone loss. The younger you are when you start these prevention steps, the better your chances of keeping your bones as healthy as possible.

It's never too late to start a bone-healthy exercise program, even if you already have osteoporosis. Weight-bearing exercises stimulate the cells that make new bone. By increasing weight-bearing exercises, you encourage your body to form more bone. This can delay or even reverse the destructive process of osteoporosis.

Some older adults may worry that being active means you're more likely to fall and break a bone. But the opposite is true. A regular, properly designed exercise program may actually help prevent falls and fractures. That's because exercise strengthens bones and muscles and improves balance, coordination, and flexibility. That's key for people with osteoporosis.

Exercise benefits almost everyone with osteoporosis. But remember: exercise is only one part of a good treatment plan. Eating a healthy diet, high in calcium and vitamin D, staying at a healthy weight, and not smoking or drinking too much alcohol make for a complete treatment plan.

Karen Morfitt, RN
ORLC Parish Nurse

Source: National Osteoporosis Association: "Osteoporosis." National Institute of Aging: "Osteoporosis: Risk Factors and Prevention."



New Paschal Candle and Paraments

We were blessed to receive a new Paschal Candle and new paraments for the Easter season. The Paschal Candle and the Paschal Lamb on the paraments remind us that our Savior is the unblemished lamb who died on the cross and rose in victory over sin, death, and the devil.

II/9/2025 VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

(PENDING APPROVAL)

Opening Prayer

Roll Call

43 in attendance

Added Chad & Jerri Birger to the rolls

Membership Changes

May: *Outgoing* Death

June: *Outgoing* Release - Tobias Tribble

July: *Outgoing* Transfer Out - Catherine Cook

August:

Incoming -

Transfer In: Josiah, Tyler, Aleksandr (Sasha),
Ambrose, and Dietrich Nelson

Baptism: Sawyer James Penning

September:

Incoming -

Transfer In: Ethan Burns and Mackenzie Ricks-

Moore

Outgoing -

Death: Judy Machacek and Dorothy Steibel

Release: Thomas, Abraham, Samuel, Isaac, & Mark
Darsaw, Nancy Doe, Noah Maier,
Rebecca, Victoria, Tarlue, and Terri Yuwar

October: *Incoming* Transfer in - Braxton McCarty,
Zachary, Kendra, and Zander Voss

Review and Approve Minutes from previous Voters' Assembly (May 2025)

Treasurer's Report

(Janelle Lafrentz on behalf of Lauren Penning)

a. In good standing

b. Provided 5 year lookback at giving vs.
expenditures

Action Items

- SFLS Updates (Paula Clemens)
- Update from Pastor Simek
 - More services upcoming for Thanksgiving and Advent
 - Wednesday services are 6:30pm

- Christmas Day 9am
- New Years Eve 6:30pm
- 1st Communion prior to confirmation: 5 students so far
 - The will still attend catechism classes and receive the rite of confirmation later
- Oromo Group
 - Meets at 1pm in our basement
 - In the process of seeking charter membership from the synod
 - They will eventually become Peniel Evangelical Oromo Lutheran Church
 - Non linked to ORLC other than facility usage
- Working on visiting everyone, slowly finding times to meet with people to get to know the flock
- Trustees Update:
 - Roof, gutters, skylights have been serviced, much improved!
- LCMS Convention Nominations
 - President Pastor Matthew Harrison re-election nomination from the floor for President
- Church Council elections for 2026-2027
 - Treasurer: Lauren Penning
 - Elders: Bob Berg, Trevor Lee
 - Trustees: Seth Leet, Jon Ehlers, Karl Warns, Jason Consoer, Paul Eden
 - Board of Parish Education: Amy Lee
 - Board of Discipleship: Kristy Eden, Pam Berg
 - Nominations from the floor: None
 - Installation of officers: January 5, 2026

Motion for adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget Total	\$603,105
Giving (Year-to-Date: 43 Weeks)	\$416,016.37
Weekly Need to Meet Budget	\$11,598.17
Average Weekly Giving (Year-to-Date)	\$9,674.80

ONLINE GIVING

Using MyVanco, it's easy to give one time or set up automatic giving.

Use the QR code or [click here to learn more!](#)



MyVanco

2026 YEAR-TO-DATE ATTENDANCE AVERAGES

	8 AM	10:30 AM	SUNDAY TOTAL
JANUARY	111.75	87.25	199
FEBRUARY	117.75	99.75	217.5
MARCH	111.8	75.6	187.4
APRIL	122	87.25	209.25

KIDS 4 CHRIST: A YEAR OF FAITH, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP

The 2025-2026 Kids 4 Christ (K4C) season has been a wonderful journey of spiritual growth and community. Meeting twice a month on Friday evenings from September through May, our group saw a steady turnout, usually around 12-16 children per session.

This year, our lessons were deeply rooted in the Nicene Creed, helping our young members understand and embrace this core confession of our faith. "Holy Holy Holy" was our hymn of the year.

Beyond our studies, the K4C nights were filled with energy and creativity. The kids enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities, both individually (designing tie-dye shirts and decorating cookies) and working together (building with magnetic tiles and kinetic sand).

Whether we were engaged in high-energy games or sharing a meal together, the focus remained on growing in our faith as God's children. It has been a joy to watch this group develop in their love for Jesus and one another.

This rewarding season would not have been possible without our dedicated volunteers. Special thanks to Janelle Lafrentz, Michael Lafrentz, Derek Greenwaldt, Jody Rieck, Jerri Birger, Pam Berg, and Karen Morfitt.



YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

Age Group	Date	Location	Event	Notes
Confirmed Youth	Wed, May 20	ORLC	Youth Group	Meeting at 6:00 PM
HT Conference	Wed, June 3	ORLC Lounge	Meeting	For conference attendees
5th-12th	Wed, June 3	Resurrection	Circuit Youth	6PM-7:30PM Those not attending the HT Conference meeting
5th-12th	Wed, June 10	Faith	Circuit Youth	RSVP DUE: Canaries Game
FAMILY	Wed, June 17	The Birdcage	Family Night	Canaries Game (\$5/Ticket)
Confirmed Youth	Wed, June 24	Bagel Boy	Youth Group	6PM-7PM
HT Conference	June 28-July 3	St. Louis	Conference	Registration Closed
FAMILY	Wed, July 1	Wild Water West	Family Night	No RSVP; Parental attendance required
5th-12th	Wed, July 8	ORLC	Circuit Youth	6PM
5th-12th	Wed, July 15	ORLC	Circuit Youth	6PM-7:30PM
5th-12th	Wed, July 22	Resurrection	Circuit Youth	6PM-7:30PM
Catechesis	July 28-31	Camp IODISECA	HT Camp	Register on the HT Website
5th-12th	Wed, July 29	Faith	Circuit Youth	Fear Factor themed activity night
5th-12th	Wed, Aug 5	ORLC	Circuit Youth	RSVP DUE: Great Shots
Catechesis	Aug 7 & 8	ORLC	HT Retreat	Registration Coming
5th-12th	Wed, Aug 12	Great Shots	Circuit Youth	Golf and Tacos; RSVP Required

"How can I get involved?"

Children:

Sunday School—We have Sunday School for PreK-High School on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM. Our Sunday School teachers are:

Preschool: Mrs. Kristy Eden & Mrs. Kris Leonhardt
 5 yrs-2nd Grade: Mrs. Deb Huntsinger
 3rd-5th Grade: Mr. Bryan Eden
 6th-8th Grade: Mr. Tim Eden
 9th-12th Grade: Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden

Kids 4 Christ—Mrs. Janelle Lafrentz, Mrs. Jody Rieck, and Mr. Derek Greenwaldt lead our children
 Kindergarten—5th grade at Kids 4 Christ (K4C) every 1st and 3rd Friday. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by our K4C program. The program ends at 7:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth:

Catechesis Classes—We have catechesis classes every Wednesday during the school year from 6PM-7PM for 5th—8th graders except during Advent and Lent. Mr. Bryan Eden teaches the 5th grade class, and Rev. Brett Simek teaches the 6th-8th grade class. There is a church family meal before class at 5PM for anyone who may wish to eat at the church.

Junior and High School Youth:

Youth Group—Mr. and Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden lead our youth group on Wednesday evenings 6PM—7PM for 8th—12th graders, as well as monthly activities throughout the year for 6th—12th graders.

High School and Adults:

Vocal Choir—Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday evening at 7PM (7:30 during Advent and Lent). If you are interested in joining choir, please speak with or email Rev. Shane—HShane101@gmail.com.

Handbell Choir—We meet each Tuesday at 6:45PM. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Matt Nussbaum.

Adults:

Sunday Morning Bible Study—Sunday morning Bible study is led by Rev. Brett Simek each Sunday at 9:15AM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall downstairs!

Wednesday Adult Bible Study—We have Bible Study each Wednesday at 6PM except during Advent and Lent, led by Rev. David Morfitt.

Healing Hearts—Healing Hearts is a group of men and women who are at any stage of grieving the loss of a loved one. The purpose is to share in loss, get to know others, and find support within our church family. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 10AM.

S.A.I.L. Classes—Parish Nurse Karen Morfitt leads our SAIL class, an exercise class focused on strength and balance every Monday and Thursday at 1:30PM.

Senior Members:

Senior Saints Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1PM.

Senior Saints Brunch—We meet at Perkins on 41st Street the second Thursday of every month at 9:30AM.

Men:

Guys' Garage—Mr. Tim Goettsch leads the Guys' Garage group. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6PM. There are different activities each month.

Women:

LWML—We have two LWML groups at ORLC. Evening LWML meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Ebenezer LWML meets the third Thursday of each month at 1:30PM.

Women's Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 6:30PM.

All members:

Volunteering—We are always looking for people of all ages to help serve on Sunday mornings - greeters, ushers, altar guild members, acolytes, and help running presentations.