

SEPTEMBER

The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2025

Mark Your Calendars!

September 7– Sunday Worship w/o Communion, Rally Day and Church Picnic

September 14– Voters' Meeting at 10:00 am followed by Sunday Worship with Communion

September 21– Sunday Worship w/o Communion

September 28– Sunday Worship with Communion

Bible Studies at Church

TAWG: (time away with God): evening Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Studying women of the Bible

Ladies' Bible Study: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Studying prayer

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Miss something from the Sermon?

All of our worship services are livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website at: www.orknoxin.com



Welcome! To our September Church Newsletter!

As summer fades and autumn begins to paint the world with its golden hues, we celebrate the beauty of change and the steadfast love of our vibrant church community. This month, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and service as we continue walking together in faith.

In the weeks ahead, look forward to inspiring sermons, enriching Bible studies, and heartfelt opportunities to connect and grow. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, our doors and hearts remain open to you. Whether you're seeking peace, guidance, or a deeper sense of belonging, you'll find a home here.

Let us embrace this season of renewal with faith, love, and gratitude—because your presence is what makes our church family complete.

Welcome home!

A Message from Church Leadership

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We want to take a moment to let you know that the Call Committee is working diligently, prayerfully, and thoughtfully seeking a new pastor to shepherd our congregation. This process takes time, discernment, and a great deal of prayer, and we are grateful for their dedication to this important task.

During this period of transition, it is more important than ever to remember that we are a church family. Our mission as followers of Christ does not pause; we continue to serve others, grow in faith, and focus on the bigger picture of what God has called us to accomplish together. Every act of kindness, every moment of service, and every shared word of encouragement strengthens our congregation and bears witness to Christ's love.

As Scripture reminds us:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:24-25

If you have any questions about the pastoral search process, or are in need of anything please feel free to reach out to **Dave Geisler, Mel Lenig, or Diane Cruz**. For those in need of pastoral care during this vacancy, **Pastor Dan Speckhard** is available and can be reached at **219-508-6043**.

Let us continue to support one another, lift each other up in prayer, and trust in God's perfect timing.

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for guiding our congregation and providing for all our needs. Strengthen our Call Committee with wisdom and discernment as they seek the pastor You have chosen for us. Help us, as a church family, to serve faithfully, encourage one another, and share Your love in all we do. Keep us steadfast in faith and united in Your Spirit until the shepherd You have appointed comes to lead us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

In Christ's Service,
Your Church Leadership



Preschool News



Little Lambs Preschool Kicks Off a New Year of Learning and Faith

Little Lambs has kicked off another year of preschool! We are excited to welcome our students and families back as we begin this new season of growth, discovery, and joy.

In the photo included, you'll see our wonderful team of teachers and office staff who make Little Lambs such a special place. From left to right: **Miss Chandler, Miss Brianna, Miss Marybeth, Miss Jessica, Miss Elaine, Miss Robyn, Miss Megan, Miss Abby, and Miss Ryleigh**. Each of these dedicated staff members plays a vital role in creating a safe, caring, and Christ-centered environment for our children.

For four decades, Little Lambs Preschool has been a trusted place for children and families in the Knox area to learn, grow, and thrive. We are grateful for the many years of God's blessings on this ministry, and we look forward to continuing to share His love with the next generation.

As the new year begins, we invite our church family to keep our students, families, and staff in prayer. May this year be filled with laughter, learning, and the joy of walking together in faith.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
— Matthew 19:14



The Rummage Sale is Busting Out Early!

We usually wait a little longer for our big rummage sale... but this year we couldn't! The tables are groaning, the closets are bursting, and if we didn't open the doors soon, we'd have had to start stacking lamps on top of lawn chairs in the parking lot.

Friday, Sept. 5 | 8 AM – 3 PM
Saturday, Sept. 6 | 8 AM – Noon

What's waiting for you? Clothes, books, toys, furniture, dishes, holiday décor, and plenty of "what is this thing?" discoveries. You might find a brand-new treasure—or at least a great story to tell.

So grab a friend, a cup of coffee, and a sturdy tote bag, and come shop with us. Bargains will be flying off the tables faster than you can say "I didn't know I needed that!"

Parsonage Update

The parsonage updates are coming along so nicely, and we are truly thankful for the progress being made! After our previous pastor moved out, it became clear that the home needed some care and attention before it could be ready to welcome a new pastor. We would also like to add that these updates are not just for appearance, but important repairs and improvements to make the parsonage a safe, comfortable, and welcoming place to live. With that in mind, it was time to roll up our sleeves and get to work!



A very special thank you goes to Bill and Jerri Cole, who have volunteered and poured countless hours into the parsonage. While the project is not yet finished, their dedication has already made a remarkable difference.

We are also grateful for the help of some of our youth, Braxton McGinley and Gavin Michel (pictured here), who spent a part of their summer break helping tackle the overgrown trees in the parsonage yard. The branches that were cut down lined the driveway that connects to the church!—a big job that made such an improvement!

We would also like to extend heartfelt thank you to the Friendship Circle, who generously voted to donate \$7,000 toward the parsonage project. This generous gift has already been a tremendous help in moving the work forward, and we are deeply grateful for their support!

We will continue to share updates as the work continues and we look forward to the day we can joyfully open the doors of the parsonage to welcome our new pastor.



Rally Day – Kickoff Sunday, September 7th!

Come celebrate the start of a brand-new year of faith, fellowship, and fun! On **Sunday, September 7th**, we'll gather for Rally Day – a joyful time to reconnect after the summer and launch into a new season of learning and growing together in Christ.

- **Adult Bible Study and 5th-6th grade Sunday school class** – 10:00–10:45 AM (before worship). A time to dig into Scripture and be refreshed in God's Word.
- **Confirmation Class** – 10:00–10:45 AM for students preparing to affirm their faith and grow in understanding of God's promises.
- **Children's Sunday School** – During the Worship Service, preschool through 4th grade students will be **joyfully dismissed after the children's message** for their own special time of faith and fun.

Stay After Worship for a Church Picnic!

After the service, everyone is invited to stay for a picnic filled with food, fellowship, and laughter. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as a church family—bring your appetite and your joy! Lunch will be followed by games in the Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center please bring a white elephant gift if you would like to play bingo.

Let's make this Rally Day a celebration to remember. We can't wait to see you there!



LCMS National Youth Gathering Recap

In July, our youth group had the incredible opportunity to attend the **LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana!** It was a week full of worship, service, learning, and fun—a truly unforgettable experience that strengthened our faith and brought us closer as a group.

Worship That Lifted Our Spirits

From the very first worship mass event, we were amazed by the energy and joy of thousands of youth coming together in praise. Powerful music, inspiring messages from speakers like **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler** and **Sarah Kroger**, and heartfelt prayers reminded us that we are part of a larger body of Christ. Each mass event was not just uplifting—it encouraged us to take our faith out into the world.

Service That Made a Difference

One of the most meaningful parts of the week for many of the youth was serving the local New Orleans community. Many groups helped with:

- Neighborhood clean-ups
- Food distribution at local shelters
- Volunteer projects in areas still recovering from past disasters

Our Grupe participated in an onsite service project working with sorting beads for the New Orleans Community was amazing to see how small acts of service could make a real difference and how serving others strengthened our faith in action.

Fun, Fellowship, and Learning

The week wasn't all work—there were plenty of moments to connect, learn, and have fun:

- **Workshops and discussion groups** on leadership, faith in everyday life, and social justice topics gave us practical ways to live out our faith.
- **Exploring New Orleans**—though the Indiana district event on a river boat cruise we were able to see the city from the Mississippi River. We even got to see an alligator in the Mississippi River!
- **Group activities and games** helped us bond, laugh, and create memories we'll never forget.

What We Took Home

The Gathering reminded us that faith isn't just something we practice on Sundays—it's something we live every day. We returned home inspired, motivated, and ready to bring the joy, energy, and service mindset we experienced back to our church and community.

One of our group members said it best: *"This trip showed me that faith is alive everywhere, and that even as young people, we can make a difference."*

We are so grateful for this experience and for everyone who supported our trip. The memories, lessons, and friendships we made will continue to guide us in our faith journey for years to come.



YOUTH GROUP News

Youth Friday Nights with *The Chosen*

We're excited to share that our youth will begin gathering on Friday evenings from **5:30-7:30 PM starting September 5th!** Each week we'll meet in the Family Life Center for a time of fun and fellowship—beginning with open gym time, followed by an episode of *The Chosen* and a group discussion.

A light snack will be provided, so we encourage students to have dinner beforehand. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and friendship, and we encourage our youth to invite a friend to join in the fun!



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE



September Schedule

September 7th-Emma Brammer

September 14th-Neva Balaszek

September 21st-Hudson Hazelton

September 28th-Layla Brammer

Youth Group Sundays

No Sunday afternoon events during the month of September.



Church Council Meeting

Wednesday September 10th 6:00 pm

Voters' Meeting

Sunday September 14th at 10:00 am

before the Worship service* there will be no Adult Bible Study this Sunday due to the Voters' Meeting

Small Groups Are Coming Back!

We're excited to share that small groups are in the works again, and we hope to launch a few of them soon! These groups are still in the early planning stages, but we'd love your feedback and interest as we move forward.

Here are a few of the groups being planned:

- **Card Playing Ministry** – A fun way to connect over games and fellowship. (If interested, please speak with *Sharon Krick*. We are still working on a leader for this group.)
- **Godly Fathers & Husbands** – A group focused on encouraging men in their roles as spiritual leaders, led by *Phil Hamand*.
- **Mothers Group** – A supportive space for moms to grow together, co-led by *Jana Hazelton* and *Danielle Franks*.

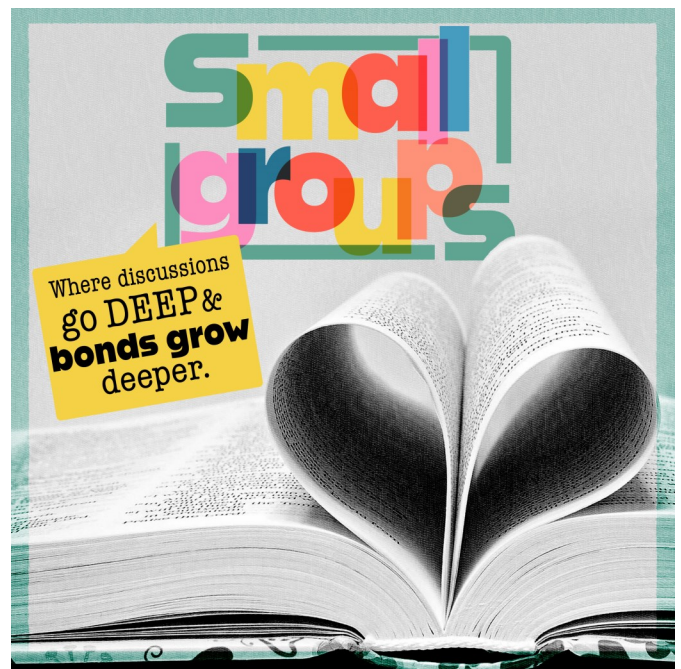
These groups are still in the rough stages, and your input will help shape them! If you're interested, please reach out directly to the group leaders:

Phil Hamand – 574-349-0116 | phamand15@gmail.com

Jana Hazelton – 574-806-4998

Danielle Franks – 574-806-1926

Let us know if one of these groups speaks to you—we'd love to see you get connected!



In Remembrance of Patriot Day

On September 11th, 2001, our nation was shaken by events that forever changed us. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost in the attacks on New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Each year on *Patriot Day*, we pause to remember those who perished, to honor the courage of first responders and ordinary citizens who acted with extraordinary bravery, and to pray for those still carrying the burden of grief.

For Christians, remembrance is never without hope. St. Paul writes: *"For I am sure that neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38–39). Even in the darkest of days, God's promises remain steadfast.

Patriot Day reminds us not only of the fragility of life, but also of the calling we have as God's people to be instruments of His peace. We give thanks for those who sacrificed their lives in service to others, and we pray that the Lord would continue to protect our nation, guide our leaders, and comfort all who mourn.

As we remember, let us also look forward in faith—trusting in the cross and resurrection of Christ, where true victory over sin, death, and evil has already been won.

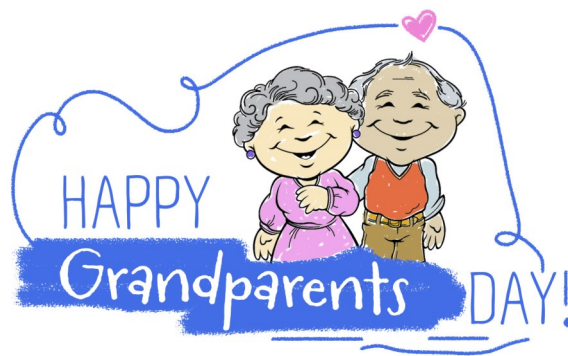
Let us pray:

"Almighty God, on this day of remembrance, we commend to Your care all who lost loved ones in the tragedy of September 11th. Grant comfort to the grieving, strength to those who serve and protect, and wisdom to our leaders. Above all, keep us steadfast in the hope we have in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."



Special Days in September

- Labor Day — September 1, 2025
- National Grandparents Day — September 7, 2025
- Patriot Day — September 11, 2025
- Hispanic Heritage Month — September 15–October 15, 2025
- First Day of Autumn — September 22, 2025





September Worship Service Volunteer Schedules

PowerPoint

Sept. 7th Diane Cruz
Sept. 14th Gracie Krueger
Sept. 21st Sharon Krick
Sept. 28th Jana Hazelton

Lector Schedule

Sept. 7th Kathy Dedloff
Sept. 14th Jana Hazelton
Sept. 21st Shannon Pitts
Sept. 28th Kathy Dedloff

Usher Schedule

Sept. 7th Meda Sullivan, Eliane Browne, Robin Vargo, and Casey Vargo
Sept. 14th Meda Sullivan, Denise Doig, Larry Mick, Paul Meyers, and Phil Hamand
Sept. 21st Meda Sullivan, Dave Geisler, Christy Enger, and **Volunteer Needed**
Sept. 28th Meda Sullivan, Diane Cruz, Deb Bell, Keith Enger, and Becky Wirebaugh

Communion Assistant

Sept. 14th Dennis Dean
Sept. 28th Dennis Dean

Children's Message

Sept. 7th Megan Hamand
Sept. 14th **Need Volunteer**
Sept. 21st Billie Krueger
Sept. 28th Diane Cruz

We are deeply grateful for each of our faithful volunteers who serve with such dedication and joy every Sunday. Your willingness to give your time and talents is a true blessing to our church family. Because of you, our worship services run smoothly and our ministry continues to thrive.

As our church grows, so does our need for helping hands! We invite others to join this amazing team of servants. Whether you can greet, set up, sing, teach, or simply lend a hand where needed, your participation will make a difference. Thank you for serving so faithfully — we thank God for each of you!



SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Kimberly Emmons

Paul Godines

Marybeth Fornelli

Haylee Wolf

Nicholas Wakefield

Eunice Cleveland

Jeff Sullivan

Jesse A. Godines

Robert Duffee

Michael Lord

Lucille Hamand

Elwin (Al) Holke

September 7

September 8

September 9

September 11

September 12

September 16

September 16

September 17

September 20

September 21

September 29

September 29

Bonnie Minix

Emily Waters

Richard & Danielle Franks

Rodney & Margaret Koch

Elwin (Al) & Janet Holke

Rich & Diane Cruz

Bruce & Karen Zimmerman

September 3

September 8

September 15

September 15

September 19

September 23

September 25



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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