



**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and  
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August 2025

***Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing***

***“Human: Treat with Care, Respect, and Dignity”***

**August 3, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 12 verses 13-21**

The first Sunday of August we hear of the story of the land owner who, rather than sharing his wealth, instead chose to build bigger storage to keep his “stuff”. We, as a nation, are among the richest people on earth right now, yet, we have children who go to bed hungry every night; we have people who want to work but cannot find a job with acceptable wages; we have people who live on the streets of our cities because they cannot afford housing; we have people who go without medications and medical care because they cannot afford it and food and rent. No, you as an individual person cannot fix all the woes in our world; or nation; or even our city or neighborhood. Just because you cannot fix everything, does not mean that you cannot help to fix something. It is time to look within and reflect on how you spend your time, talents, and treasure. *What are you building up? What are you saving for “just in case”? Where are your most precious treasures; your riches: in the bank or in God’s hands?*

**August 10, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 12 verses 32-40**

The second Sunday of August we continue the theme of God’s generosity to those who are open and ready for it. Jesus uses the example of a master returning to his house and finding his slaves ready to receive him. Jesus says that the master will, in turn, serve them. God transforms us daily as we interact with Him, with others, and with the world that God created. How often do we actually see the good works of God in our own lives? What miracles do we see but do not recognize? How is God active in your life? What is your response to God as He works within your own life?

**August 17, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 12 verses 49-56**

The third Sunday in August we have a very powerful Gospel lesson. In this lesson we have Jesus stating that he has not come to bring peace. Jesus describing the cost of discipleship, once again. Jesus again warns his followers that living the way of the cross; following God’s call; living in faithfulness; being a disciple; is never an easy path. I try not to actually laugh in people’s faces when they say things like, “*Jesus was all about love and peace.*” or “*Of course I can do this; God wants me to be happy!*” I have no idea what Bible or Gospels they have been reading but mine does not say that. Jesus repeatedly states that following Him is going to cost you. This week Jesus lists the costs (again) including family division. It is a hard Gospel lesson. We love our families. But, when it comes to a choice between being faithful to God or

keeping the peace in a family, that is when the choice to follow Jesus truly is hard. *Have you had to make a hard choice in your own life? How did you choose? Was there ever reconciliation? How do you feel about your choice now?*

**August 24, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 13 verses 10-17**

The fourth Sunday in August we hear the story of Jesus curing a woman on the Sabbath. She then praises God for her healing. And it follows that there are the “righteous” men in power that proceed to complain that it was done on the Sabbath! Jesus, in healing this woman, gave her back her innate dignity that comes from being created by a loving God. There are a couple of points I find really important in this lesson. First, is that the Sabbath was made a day of rest by God yet so often we, as “busy” people, do not take a day to rest; to reconnect with God; to be with family or friends; to recenter ourselves on our path, with our cross, to heaven. We need this time to just be in the presence of I AM. The second point that resonates with me is that Jesus called the woman to himself to free her. Then proceeded to rebuke the men of power by reminding them that she is a daughter of Abraham. It is a reminder to all of us that we are born with inherent dignity simply because we are created in the likeness and image of God and are born with the breath of the Holy Spirit in us. This is why we, as people of faith in the risen Jesus Christ, MUST treat each person we encounter with dignity and kindness. We need to look for the face of God within them.

**August 31, 2025 The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 14 verses 1, 7-14**

The final Sunday in August we have Jesus commenting on a dinner he was invited to. He has a discourse on honor which leads to the question of: how do we value people. Society says that people who are rich, or famous, or political, or own big businesses, or are in agreement with whatever the latest societal trends are: are the important people. Jesus says that we need to be humble; meek and that is what gives us honor in God’s eye. We usually think, yay, Jesus says the exalted will be humbled and those who are humble will be exalted! We always assume we are the latter. We also need to focus on the last paragraph of the Gospel lesson. Here Jesus directs us to include those not able to repay your invitation in your plans. When we were children there was always those cliques in school: the brains, the popular / pretty people, the jocks, the drama people ... and there were always the people that never quite fit in with anyone: the loners. Sadly, this exclusionary behavior does not end in high school. We, as a society, continue with the cliques but dress them up a bit. Jesus reminds us that all are welcome at HIS table. Jesus reminds us that our Christian Vocation is to bring Jesus to everyone we encounter. We are called to break those cliques and welcome all.