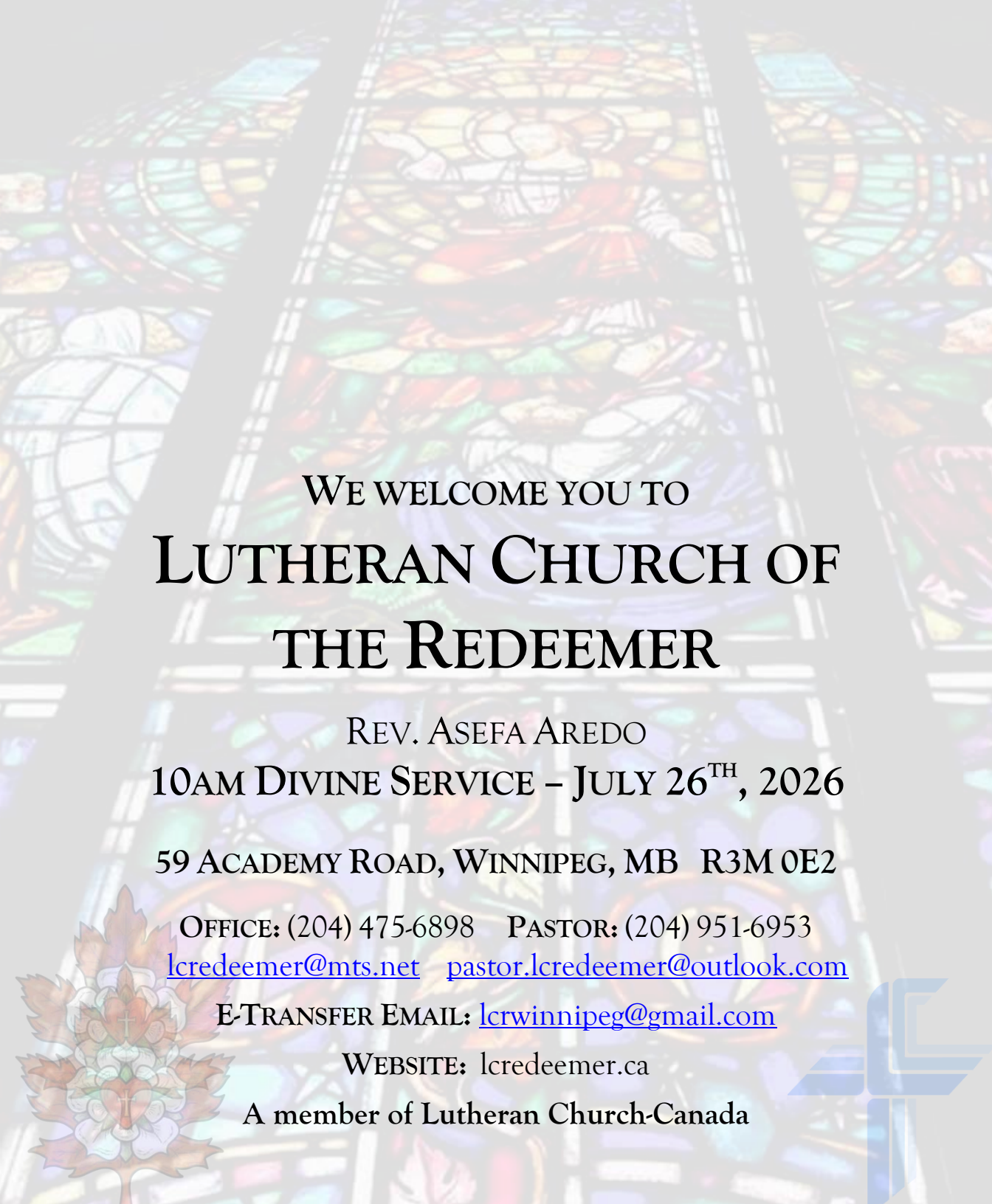




WE WELCOME YOU TO LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

REV. ASEFA AREDO
10AM DIVINE SERVICE – JULY 26TH, 2026

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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



Beware of False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:20). The “fruits” of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

DIVINE SERVICE, Setting Four – (LSB pp 203ff)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

OPENING HYMN – #913 – O Holy Spirit, Enter In

INVOCATION – page 203

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – page 203

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE – pages 204

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – page 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY – page 205

OLD TESTAMENT READING – *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and to hear his word,

or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD!

Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.
²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his heart.
In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹"I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;
I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,
and they would have turned them from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.

²³"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD.

Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

SECOND READING – Acts 20:27–38

²⁷For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy

Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
³⁶And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE – page 205

HOLY GOSPEL – *Matthew 7:15-23*

¹⁵[Jesus said:] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

NICENE CREED – page 206

HYMN OF THE DAY – #760 – What God Ordains Is Always Good

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: *Lord, in Your mercy;* C: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Shut-ins –
Elwood Kaminsky & Kathy Krahenbil
Also Eileen Wiens and others we know to be in need.

OFFERING

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION – page 212

CLOSING HYMN – #700 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

POSTLUDE

REDEEMER REPORTER

PASTOR VACATION TIME:

Pastor Manning will be away for a period of leave, combining vacation and ministry-related travel on the following Sundays.

August 2nd – Pr. David Habershtock

EXPENSE BUDGET:

The Voters approved a \$280,498 expense budget for 2026. As of June 30, 2026, revenue from general offerings and rental of our church facilities is \$77,238 leaving us 6 months to make up this large \$203,260 budget requirement from offerings. When you are making your offerings, we ask that you prayerfully consider our financial circumstances. We pray that with our efforts to meet our approved budget requirement, God will use our gifts to further His work. We truly appreciate the support that our faithful volunteers provide in terms of their time and talents. Your love for your Lord is evident in your service.

MID-WEEK DIVINE SERVICES:

For those away on weekends during the Summer, a brief Divine Service with the Sacrament will be held on **all Wednesdays in August @7pm.** This is particularly aimed at those who are away on weekends during the summer. It is crucial that you do not go long without the Sacrament, so please come along!

PRIVATE CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION:

This is offered on Saturday mornings 10am–11am at the church.