GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

FROM PASTOR NIX

The Reporter on the Convention

MILWAUKEE — On Wednesday, Aug. 2, Floor Committee (FC) 5 on Theology and Church Relations resolved its remaining business at the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The slate of resolutions provided guidance regarding the Lord's Supper, Lutheran education and the use of technology in the church.

Resolutions 5-09 and 5-15 dealt with different aspects of the Lord's Supper. The former resolution re-affirms the LCMS' historic position regarding close(d) Communion, the latter the reverential administration.

Before moving to the body of the resolution, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison briefly offered a threefold explanation for the practice of closed Communion. "First … we really are concerned that people who receive the Sacrament are Christians. None of us wants to, as Paul says, give the Sacrament to somebody for their detriment," he said, referencing St. Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 11.

Second, Harrison also mentioned the repeated injunction of Scripture for complete unity in doctrine and teaching. Finally, he explained pastoral discretion. The LCMS has always acknowledged that pastors have discretion to make certain allowances based on circumstances. But Harrison also warned against the abuse of such practice: "Printing in your bulletin 'If you believe in the real presence, y'all come' is not pastoral discretion."

The resolution, which was adopted by 88.91%, enumerates a number of previous resolutions upholding the practice of closed Communion that were adopted by past conventions. It then charges the Synod president and Council of Presidents (COP), in consultation with the two seminaries of the Synod, to provide case studies and discussions for use within districts of the LCMS.

To address concerns related to the use of prepackaged elements, the delegation adopted Res. 5-15, "To Uphold Proper Elements and Reverential Administration of the Lord's Supper." It directs congregations to treat reverentially the elements of the Lord's Supper and the Commission on Theology and Church Re-

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BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

01 Lynette Wedeking
04 Basil Wetzel
07 Ethan Guenther
10 Emily Nix
13 Andrew Brack
13 Jenny Brack
16 Shawn Guenther
25 Elva Clauson
29 Dr Raymond Hartwig

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

07 Jon-Eric and Sarah Deutsch

The WORD of the LORD ENDURES FOREVER

Study the Bible with the Church,
Past and Present

A daily, verse-by-verse Bible Study
hosted by
Pastor Will Weedon
thewordendures.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

Issues, Etc.
Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian
www.issuesetc.org

Sacred Music 24/7
lutheranpublicradio.org

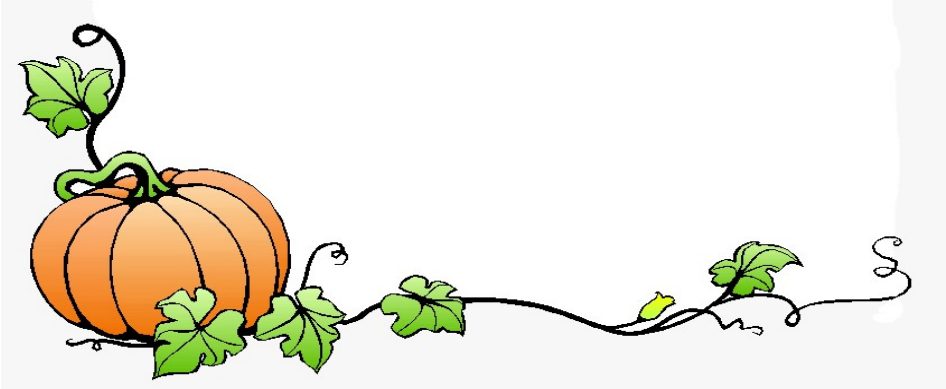
LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

September 3 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity "We are made holy by the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, ours by faith in His life, death, and resurrection. Yet we are holy in another sense, too. We have been set apart, called out, by a holy God for God's holy purposes—to love God and our neighbor, to serve, to make disciples. We have been set apart to serve as spouses, parents and grandparents, citizens, workers." *Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 10 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity "There is no more valuable work for God and for all of Christendom than bringing up your children in the faith and trust of Jesus! It's not hard to believe that if this were our primary aim, that our children would not question their gender, that they would respect their neighbor and love their spouses, that they would welcome the opportunity to serve the public with politics that reflect solid biblical values, and that they would continue to attend church well after confirmation!" *Rev. Jeff Duncan, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 17 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity "No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 24 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity "Every human life meets us as gift and privilege, created and redeemed and called by our Lord as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever. And our life-affirming witness and service is surrounded and celebrated by a magnificent multitude of like-minded saints gone before, yet to come, and the world over." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – September 2023

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word "enchiridion" is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for "handbook." The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

> The First Commandment:
>
> You shall have no other gods.
>
> *What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

> This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild serves an important role in worship. Altar Guild members serve by handling the elements of the Holy Sacrament, both consecrated and unconsecrated, by caring for the vessels, linens and items used in this service, and by cleaning, supplying, and maintaining the areas of the building set aside for this service.

Christ Lutheran Church Altar Guild invites new members as well as experienced ones to gather for a brief informational meeting after the service on Rally Day, September 10. This should be a brief, ten minute meeting to share more about this important service in our worship. There is no obligation or commitment at this time; we will be discussing briefly a plan to enhance our existing organization and identify interested members. If you are interested in learning more about Altar Guild but are unable to attend the meeting, please email or text Cynthia Schilf (cynthia.schilf@k12.sd.us (mailto:cynthia.schilf@k12.sd.us) or 605-376-2714).

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
August 31, 2023

	06/2023	07/2023	08/2023
Deposits:	$ 13,367.76	$ 30,320.49	$ 11,760.41
Disbursements:	$ 12,744.63	$ 18,871.07	$ 15,407.47
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 12,887.28	$ 20,256.49	$ 6,419.16
Designated Funds:	$ 480.48	$ 10,064.00	$ 5,341.25
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 15,929.72	$ 19,912.15	$ 15,929.72
Mortgage Balance as of 08/31			$ 83,601.30



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home
Helen Kriz, Bethany Lutheran Home, Brandon
Lisa Johnson, health issues/wellness
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson at home



RALLY DAY

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 10th. Come join in on the fun! Sunday School will begin at 10:45 am. Adult Bible Study will begin the following week due to the Voters' Meeting. We will be having a Pot Luck dinner at noon to continue our celebration. Please bring a dish to share.



VOTERS' MEETING

The 3rd Quarterly Voters' Meeting will meet after church during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 10th. There will be no Adult Bible Study due to the meeting. We will have a Pot Luck Dinner after the meeting.



WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN

We will begin meeting again monthly for Bible Study and Fellowship. We plan to meet the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. We are studying the Great Women of the Bible. Please check the Narthex for a copy of this month's study on Eve. This is an open invitation to any woman of Christ Lutheran. If you have any questions please see Lisa Johnson.

lations (CTCR) to take up the concerns for further study.

Regarding the use of technology in the church, particularly in reference to worship, the delegation passed Res. 5-13A. As a result of this resolution, the COP, the Office of the President and the CTCR will develop a process allowing for discussion and input from people with "divergent and diverse positions" regarding such practices as "virtual" worship, online Bible studies and more.

The remaining resolutions directed the CTCR to "develop principles of Lutheran education" (Res. 5-10), reaffirmed the Synod's position on marriage and sexuality (Res. 5-11), and asked the CTCR to prepare a document on sharing the Gospel in a post-Christian context (Res. 5-12).

Res. 5-14A, "To Address Release and Use of *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications*," was withdrawn from consideration by FC 5.

"I'm encouraged by the high percentage of affirmative votes for all those resolutions on closed Communion, the use of online technology and reverential treatment of the elements of the Lord's Supper," said the Rev. Peter Brock, first vice-president of the LCMS Indiana District and secretary for FC 5. "I'm very encouraged and thankful that for the most part there's widespread unity and agreement within our church body."

Posted Aug. 2, 2023

By Roy S. Askins

The Will of God Is Always Best

Lutheran Service Book 758 | study by Larry A. Peters

Introduction

Every day some people must face the death of a spouse or the loss of a child. How do you recover from such traumatic events? Such events in life are hard to get over and are spiritual challenges as well as matters of the heart. They test us in ways we wish we could avoid.

Pastors often stand with people in the worst moments of their lives, trying to help them make sense of it all, to find comfort and peace and to put the pieces back together again. Pastors and our church families are helpers in our time of need, but faith is our primary resource to find God's grace when life is touched by sorrow or suffering.

The most credible author of this hymn is Albrecht von Preussen, whom we believe wrote this text after the death of his wife Dorothea in 1547. His grief and faith was met with hope, trust and the comfort of God's gracious will. If we learn anything from him and this hymn, we learn to trust in God when all we have is sorrow, hurt and struggle. Christ is still there with us and for us.

- When the wounds of life cause us the greatest pain and suffering, where do we go for comfort?
- Lamentations 3:33 reminds us that God does not willingly grieve us. He does willingly support us in our grief, console us with His grace and supply His mercy to answer our pain. How do His Word and Sacraments deliver this comfort and consolation to us?

Exploring the Scriptures

All the Readings for today speak comfort. The Introit begins with our prayer for God's grace in our cries "all the day" long (Ps. 86:3). In the worst moments of life, faith insists that the Lord is good, "abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon [Him]" (v. 5).

- "In the day of my trouble I call upon [God],"

Continues on page 6

says the psalmist (v. 7). Is the Lord our last resort or our first stop for this comfort and deliverance?

In the Lessons we are confronted with the nature of suffering. It is brief: it lasts only for the night (Ps. 30:5). "Joy comes with the morning."

- Why does suffering feel like it lasts so long?
- How many days and nights are stolen by anxiety, fear and sorrow?
- To whom do we turn? Who is our helper in the distresses of this mortal life?

In 1 Kings 17:17–24 we read how the death of a child became an occasion for God to display His mercy. In the end, it was not merely the return of her son that the Lord gave to this woman, but faith in His will.

- Verse 19: "Give me your son." Is this the call to give over to the Lord all our sorrows, griefs, pain and so on?
- Can we depend on the Lord to comfort and heal us?

St. Paul acknowledges the worry and sympathetic concern of the Ephesians (3:13) but insists that his suffering points to "the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge" (3:19). In other words, God's love transcends all we see and even what we feel.

- Does the love of God in Christ transcend our struggles?
- God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (v. 20). Faith alone moves us to wait upon the Lord, to trust in His promise and to be content. How do we endure when the answers do not come as we pray? Is His grace still sufficient when it seems our prayers are unanswered?

Luke 7:11–17 finds another mother, another dead son, another broken heart and another grief. Even though this son was restored to life, the people were still seized by fear (v. 16).

- Why are we surprised that God's will is good and gracious? Have we learned too well the skepticism of the world and faith not well enough?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

As was mentioned, the author of this hymn was most likely Albrecht von Preussen (1490–1568), not Albrecht von Brandenberg. The first Albrecht wrote sacred verse and was known to be pious. J. S. Bach employed this text (sts. 1 and 4) in his cantatas. Stanza 3 may not have been original, and some add a doxological stanza when omitting this stanza. The text is an eloquent statement of God's grace and a call to trust in the Lord in the darkest of circumstances.

Text

The first stanza masterfully weaves together so many Scripture passages of hope and comfort. As we learn to pray, so we learn to sing, "Your will be done" (st. 4). This is not a hopeless surrender to what we cannot control, but the positive affirmation that those who trust in the Lord are already blest. God cannot forsake His children, marked for Him in Baptism, who live by faith. His discipline is a mark of love lest we be lost to unbelief or impenitence.

- Read Prov. 3:12 and Heb. 12:6–11. What does it mean that God "chastens with forbearing" (st. 1)?
- How has God proven His friendship (John 15:13)?
- How do hymns of faith help us to engage hope in the face of adversity and internalize the Gospel promise?

In the second stanza, the faithful are described as yielding to God's "counsel, wise and just."

- Is this blind trust or has the Lord done something to engender this trust in us? What has He done?
- "The hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10:30). How intimate is God's knowledge of us and what happens in our lives?
- "He … will neither slumber nor sleep" (Ps. 121:4). How does this enable us to slumber and sleep?

Stanza 3 prays that the Lord would give us strength in the face of temptation.

- How did the Lord respond to His temptation

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is a "Suffrage"?

A suffrage is a prayer for help. The word "suffrage" comes from the Latin word "suffragium" which means "support." In this type of prayer we ask our Lord to give us His support, assistance and protection. More importantly, we ask Him to keep us strong in the faith and to give faith to other people.

Why is it good to use the Suffrages?

Look at the Suffrages in our hymnal (Responsive Prayer 1, pp. 282–84 in *Lutheran Service Book*). In the morning Suffrages, we ask God to take care of us. In the afternoon or evening suffrages we ask God to protect His Church and world. God commands us to pray in this way (see 1 Tim. 2:1–4). We hear from God's Word that He desires for us to pray for all people. God wants all people to believe in Jesus. In the Suffrages, we pray that God would provide for such salvation. What a wonderful opportunity for us to speak to God on behalf of others!

Parents:
Read through Responsive Prayer 1 with your children. Compare the language in these Suffrages to the language of the Divine Service. How are they similar? How are they different? Be sure to read and discuss 1 Tim. 2:1–4.

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All of our students should be back in school at this time. Please lift the Students, their teachers, administrators, and schools in your prayers.

UPCOMING 2023

- Sept 10 Rally Day & Pot Luck Dinner
- Sept 10 Voters Meeting
- Oct 28 Trunk or Treat, TBA
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Nov. 30, Dec 06, 13, 20 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 20 Children's Christmas Service 7pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



WE NEED PLASTIC STORAGE CONTAINERS

If you have plastic storage containers that you do not need (ie: margarine/butter/cool whip type bowls and lids) please consider donating them to the Church kitchen. It is always nice after events to send home left overs with people. The cupboards are rather bare at this time. We can use all sizes. Thank you!



(Matt. 4:1–11)?

Note how the certainty of death is admitted in stanza 4, but just as certainly is confessed the final victory and eternal life we have in Christ.

- "Grant me to say, 'Your will be done.'" Is this the work and fruit of the Spirit teaching us the obedience of faith?
- We do not surrender to death but to the Lord's keeping. How is this different from surrendering to death? Think of Stephen and his martyrdom (Acts 7). Can we be so confident in our own grief and in the hour of our death?

Making the Connection

Who has not stood at the cemetery at the death of those we love? The words of Scripture often seem to cut like a knife: "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away" (Job 1:21). But under the prompting of the Holy Spirit faith continues: "blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). In the midst of pain and loss, we have hope.

- What moments have most tested your faith?
- What circumstances led you to question God's will and His mercy?
- How does this hymn draw us back to our confidence in Christ when we least understand God's ways, when we do not see His hand at work and when we least sense His purpose, plan and presence?

In Closing

In John 6:68 Peter confesses, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Where else can we go? Hearts grieving death, sins pressing guilt, bodies facing weakness, the uncertainty of the world — our only real answer lies in the good and gracious will of God we have seen in Christ our Savior. We are not resigned to this, but convinced that our trust thus placed will not be disappointed.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 758.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the cloud of faithful witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (Time of bereavement, LSB, p. 316).

ON RALLY DAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, OUR WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE WILL GO BACK TO OUR NORMAL TIMES.

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