GOOD NEWS
FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2023

FROM PASTOR NIX

Do Not, Be Anxious, nor Worry, or Fear!!!

Luke 12:22–34

[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious about your life**, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And **do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried**. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Often, words are easier to say than to do or live. Do not be anxious, do not worry, fear not. Simple enough to say, easy to read. Easy to agree with, after all it's the Bible, God's word. Our confirmand recently pledged that they would hold to these words even to the point of death. Not just them, but each of us that have been confirmed into this church. We have all promised to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, even to death. So, why don't we?

Who among us has not been anxious and worried about countless things? Have any of us not made

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VOTERS MEETING — JUNE 4, 2023 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

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BIRTHDAYS

June

01 Jim Jones
02 Thomas Miller
07 Tom Clauson
09 Hadessah Na Kirindo
11 Cody Cook
11 Grace Jones
14 Barb Flugge
17 Barb Wetzel
18 Grace Counts
22 Michael Deutsch
22 Thomas Currey
23 Pastor Matthew Nix
23 Shannon Deardoff
24 Amanda (Brack) Fiddler

ANNIVERSARIES

June

01 Cody and Nicole Doohen
07 Kirk and Lawanda Meyer
09 Grant and Robin Holtz
11 Carl and Shannon Deardoff
13 Victor & Lynette Wedeking
14 Adam & Kelsey Holtz
15 Tom and Elva Clauson
15 Dustin and Stephanie Preheim
18 Jay and Jodie Holtz
20 Dale and Terry Engelmann
23 Paul and Cynthia Schilf

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Study the Bible with the Church,
Past and Present

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



LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

June 4 – The Holy Trinity "Almighty Triune God, thank You for Your amazing love for us. Thank You that You have rescued us from ourselves and that You have made us Yours through Christ dying on the cross for our sin and rising again to give us eternal life. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, which calls us and opens our eyes and minds and hearts to respond in faith to Your message of salvation. And bless us this day as we cling to You and as You hold us up in the palm of Your hand and in the grip of Your grace." *Rev. Roland Syens, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 11 - -St. Barnabas Apostle "The God who created us and redeemed us and lives in us has put His seal of ownership on us! He has chosen us and appointed us for a purpose—to live as Jesus' disciples by bearing fruit for His kingdom. By God's grace, and with His help, may we bear good fruit and make God-pleasing choices that glorify God who chose to create us and save us!" *Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, Nevada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 18 – Second Sunday after Trinity "Have confidence in God. Jesus Christ died for you, and Jesus Christ lives for you … By faith in Christ, enjoy real life without that constant covetousness which makes life a living hell for so many people. By faith in Christ, know once and for all what this means: A man's real life in no way depends upon the number of his possessions. A man's life does not consist of the abundance of the things he possesses." *Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffman, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 25 – Third Sunday after Trinity "We need campfires and cookouts and picnic lunches filled with laughter. Yet, as members of the household of God, we also need conversation and consolation and prayer. We need to gather, in person, at the Communion rail. Surrounded by our eternal family, we need to hear God's promises and rejoice in His forgiveness." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will be holding VBS Sunday, July 23rd—Thursday July 27th this year from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm. If you have children that you would like to register, please watch the credenza in the Narthex in the next few weeks for the registration forms. Please turn a completed registration form into the Church Office; we will have a box set up for them.

We will need some volunteers who would like to help out with VBS. If you would be interested in volunteering or would have questions, please see Pastor Nix. We may also need some items donated for snacks, or decorations. If you would be interested in donating anything, see Pastor Nix.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – June 2023

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we *actually* suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

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life changing decisions based as much on fear, if not more, than anything else? Why is that? The fact of the matter is that each of us has seen the power of the devil in this world. We have seen how sin taints everything it touches and convinces us that if we hold up the truth, we will be taken down. We have seen stories of faithful Christians losing everything simply because they wanted to be a faithful witness. We have seen Christians around the world be slaughtered, because they would not deny their faith (then we wonder how long until that happens here). If perfect Adam and Eve couldn't resist sin, what makes us think we can?

The important part of these and any of the many other verses that tell us not to fear, worry or be anxious is not us, it is God. We are told that we are of great value to Him. We are told that He knows what we need. We are told that He is with us and cares for us. We are told that it is His good pleasure to give us the kingdom. He took the kingdom of Edan away from Adam, Eve and all future humans because our first parents were anxious to be like God and abused the tree they had been commanded not to touch. Likewise, because of the abuse that happened on the tree of the cross He has given us a kingdom where no snake will temp and fear, worry and anxiety will not have a place.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
June 1, 2023

	03/2023	04/2023	05/2023
Deposits:	$ 19,113.50	$ 33,425.03	$ 18,665.83
Disbursements:	$ 60,198.11	$ 17,541.89	$ 55,944.60
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 18,824.40	$ 28,139.03	$ 15,509.83
Designated Funds:	$ 289.10	$ 5,286.00	$ 3,156.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 15,929.72	$ 19,912.15	$ 15,929.72
Mortgage Balance as of 06/01			$130,794.19



SUMMER HELP NEEDED

With summer schedules changing, we are in need of help with mowing the lawn and some of the simple cleaning duties at the church. If you are able to volunteer for any of these duties, please let us know. We will create a schedule so people would know when they have signed up and we would know we have the required coverage. The church will supply the mower, gas, cleaning supplies and equipment.





In Our Prayers

Mildred Corey, home
Helen Kriz, Bethany Lutheran Home, Brandon
Lisa Johnson, healing
Susan Powell, at home
Vern Maurer, living with his daughter in Colorado
Mildred Peters at Lyon Specialty Center in Rock Rapids, IA
Leslie & Constance Bartlett at home
Elva Clauson at home

FLOWER CHART



The 2023 Flower Chart is pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who would like to provide altar flowers for a particular Sunday.

If you have any questions about providing flowers, please contact Cheri Zehendner.

Lift High the Cross
Lutheran Service Book 837 | study by Paul J. Cain

Introduction

L God forbid that I should glory,
C save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the authors of this hymn, Michael Newbolt (1874– 1956), intended that "Lift High the Cross" be used as a processional hymn. The 1916 version of the text calls for the versicle and response above to be said when first entering the chancel at the beginning of Divine Service.

- Does your congregation have a processional cross? If so, how is it used?
- What crosses are visible in your congregation's sanctuary?
- What does it mean to "lift high the cross?"

Exploring the Scriptures

Read John 12:27–36 and John 3:14–21.

- What is the purpose of Jesus' death?
- What kind of death was He going to die under Jewish law (cf. Acts 7:54–60)? Under Roman law?
- What do these two texts have in common? What is the Old Testament connection here?

Read Heb. 13:10–21.

- "Sacrifices Pleasing to God" is the description of this section of Scripture in the English Standard Version. How were sacrifices done before? Why is Jesus the end to those sacrifices? How is His sacrifice acceptable to God? How are we acceptable to God?
- What sacrifice of sanctification do Christians offer in thanks to God?

Read Is. 11:1–16.

- Why is David's father Jesse mentioned in verse 1?
- What parts of this chapter speak to Jesus' earthly ministry? Which sections speak to Jesus' return on the Last Day and what life will be like then?
- What is the importance of a signal, ensign or flag on a battlefield (cf. v. 10)? How does the cross have a similar function for Christians?
- Reconsider verses 12–16. What is the gathering mission focus in these verses?

Read Matt. 16:24–28.

- What would it profit a man if he gained the whole world for the price of his soul?
- Where does Jesus of Nazareth reign as King of the Jews?
- How does the dialog in Matt. 16:21–23 put Jesus' later words here in context?
- Why was the cross offensive to Peter? Why is it offensive to the world? Why is it sometimes offensive to us?

Read Acts 11:19–30; 13:1–3, the appointed Second Reading for St. Barnabas.

- How did Barnabas lift high the cross?
- What challenges and opportunities did he and the early Christians face?

Exploring the Hymn
Background

"Lift High the Cross" in its current form in LSB is the work of both George W. Kitchin (1827–1912) and Michael R. Newbolt.

Kitchin wrote a four-stanza hymn (now used as the refrain and stanzas 1, 2 and 6) for use at a Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Festival in Winchester Cathedral in June 1887.

Newbolt's revision first appeared in the 1916 Supplement of Hymns Ancient and Modern with an original tune. The revision turned Kitchin's first stanza into the refrain. Several of Newbolt's twelve stanzas survive as stanzas 3, 4 and 5 in LSB (they were stanzas 4, 8 and 9 respectively in Newbolt's revision).

- Does this hymn's text remind you of "Onward Christian Soldiers"? Why?
- Do you think the author(s) had in mind Roman Emperor Constantine's vision as recorded in Life of Constantine by Eusebius, In hoc signo vinces (In this sign you shall conquer)?

Lutheran Service Book provides Leopoldo Gros' (b. 1925) Spanish translation of a five-stanza version of the text with refrain.

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Every Sunday morning, God's people gather together to receive the wonderful gifts of salvation. The gifts that our Lord has for us are delivered in different ways. One of these very important ways is the sermon.

Why is the sermon so important?

Some people don't like the sermon. They think it is too long, or maybe it is too boring. Some people even try to think of other things while the pastor is preaching. When we are tempted to think this way, we must remember what the sermon is all about. In the sermon, the wonderful Gospel message of Christ and all that He has done for us on the cross is proclaimed. Through the sermon, the pastor brings this great message to people right where they are. Though we see and hear our pastor in the pulpit, The words of the Gospel are spoken to us and all people by Jesus, saving all from their sins. Wow! What a great way to actually hear the voice of our Savior!

Parents: Before church, remind your children that Jesus speaks to them directly during the sermon. Let them know that the message is not just for adults, but for Jesus' little lambs too! Encourage them to sit and listen to Jesus as he tells them the Good News. If they get lost in the sermon, comfort them by, after the service, explaining things that might have been confusing.

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UPCOMING 2023

- June 04 Voters Meeting
- July 23– July 7 VBS
- Sept 10 Voters Meeting
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- 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

GOOD NEWS!

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

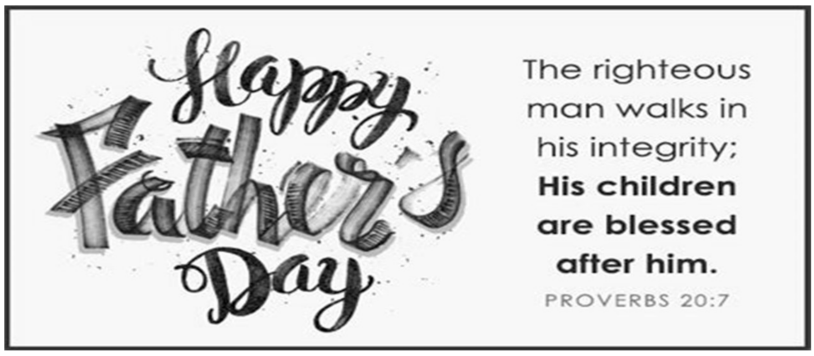
(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

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Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused



Continuation of "Lift High the Cross"

- How does the inclusion of a Spanish translation return the hymn to its original 1887 purpose?
- How does the hymn anticipate on earth the song of the whole Church in heaven?

Text
Stanza 1 echoes the militarism of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and the Church Militant. The Church is at war with the devil, the world and the sinful human flesh of Christian sinners/saints. This stanza, due to a current bias against male, royal or military imagery, is often omitted in other hymnals.

- What is lost if this stanza is omitted or reworded?
- Why is victory important in the battle against the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh?

The vision of Constantine is clearest in stanza 2. "The hosts of God" can refer to angels and archangels and all the company of heaven as well as singers here on earth.

"All newborn soldiers of the Crucified" (st. 3) is rich with the language of the rebirth of Holy Baptism, including "the seal of Him who died" "on their brows."

- Who are the hosts of God?
- What is the "seal" of "All newborn soldiers of the Crucified"?

In stanza 4, Jesus draws believers to Himself as He is lifted up. Salvation is as narrow as the cross alone, but also as wide as His arms open in welcome.

Stanza 5 presents the salvific worldview of the entire Scriptures, including Isaiah, Matthew and Revelation, of God blessing Israel so that Israel would be a blessing to people of all tribes, nations and languages for the sake of their salvation. The Christian Church, the new Israel of the Lord, proclaims salvation in Christ to the Jew first and also to the Gentile, "all nations" (Matt. 28:19), "everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself" (Acts 2:39).

- How is the cross exclusive? How is the cross inclusive?

Stanza 6 concludes "our song of triumph" with praise to Christ alone for victory because of the cross, lifted high in thanksgiving and witness.

- How is the cross both the source of our triumph and our song of triumph?
- LSB recommends that the refrain be sung in unison and the stanzas in harmony. How does this musical arrangement amplify the hymn's message?

Making the Connection
The cross is an ideal image to communicate the love of Christ, for Calvary is where the forgiveness of sins was won. This hymn is sung in the context of the Divine Service, where the forgiveness of sins is delivered in Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the Holy Gospel and Holy Communion through the Office of the Holy Ministry. Forgiven by Christ, Christians return to their vocations and tell the good news about Jesus. The name of Jesus is important, because there is no other name under heaven that saves.

- Where was forgiveness won? Instead of returning there and then, where is forgiveness delivered?

In Closing
Some congregations may have a sign that reads "You are now entering the mission field" that is visible when leaving the church parking lot. In addition to being an ideal processional hymn, "Lift High the Cross" is a natural recessional hymn, sending a congregation off to enter the mission field.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 837.

Prayer
Almighty God, Your faithful servant Barnabas sought not his own renown but gave generously of his life and substance for the encouragement of the apostles and their ministry. Grant that we may follow his example in lives given to charity and the proclamation of the Gospel; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for St. Barnabas, Apostle).



(Continued from page 3)

Until then

Do not be anxious, even though we live in a world where we have no idea how Satan will show his ugly face next.

Do not worry, even when we see evil all around us.

Do not fear, even when we can feel the wolf's breath on our skin.

But, when you do,

Remember that you are of great value to your Father in heaven.

Remember that He knows what you need.

Remember that giving you the Kingdom is His pleasure.

Because of that remember that there is more joy in heaven when one sinner repents. So repent and it will be His good pleasure to forgive your sins and thereby, give you the kingdom.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

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