GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

July brings about our celebration of our country freeing itself from the Crown. No longer were we controlled by a king across the sea. No longer were we bound to pay such burdensome taxes with little or now say. We celebrate because, after bloodshed and war, we were a free nation. As citizens of a free nation, we were the leaders of our own destiny. We were free to do as we pleased and the sky was the limit.

In theory, that is a wonderful plan. Look at our nation today. No king, yet plenty of political types telling us what we can and can't do with what seems like little control. I don't know how the taxes back then compare to the taxes of today, but ours seem to be quite burdensome. It seems that for a time things seemed to be quite good. But over time we find ourselves in a very similar situation. Why is that?

Whenever man looks to himself for security and protection, his sinful nature comes forth. This should not come as a surprise. When the Israelites told God they wanted a king, He warned them. He told them it would work out much the way it always does. Why does it seem to never work out? The reason is that God never intended us to rely on ourselves or mankind for our survival and care. He wants us to look to and depend on Him for all our needs. He wants us to listen to His Word and reap the benefits it promises.

As July finishes, we will have our annual Vacation Bible School. This year we will be looking at how God protects and cares for us, even when we don't think we need Him. Our main focus will be Baptism and how good washes us clean and cares for us. We will be looking at the tower of Babel and how God defended us from ourselves (Genesis 11:1-9, John 3:1-3). We will see how God had Moses fashion a bronze snake and put it on a poll to save those bitten by the poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:13-16). We will see the Philippian Jailor's conversion (Acts 16:25-34, John 3:17-18). We will take a look at the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-6, 38-42, John 3:5-6). And we will look at Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10, John 3:20-21).

All of those lessons will help us see how, from above, God takes care of us. We will see how Baptism joins us to the one King Who paid all of our taxes and is with and for us always.

July truly is a month to remember we are free. As a nation, yes, but most importantly as citizens of God's kingdom.

In Christ, Pastor Nix

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BIRTHDAYS

JULY

02 Matthew Wedeking
05 Genevieve Deardoff
07 Nora Brack
09 Constance Bartlett
13 Heather Johnson
17 Innocent Nshizirungu
23 Jerome Ommen
29 Mason Hericks
29 Stephanie Preheim

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

30 Steven and Tina Counts

BAPTISMS

01 Samuel Fick
02 Sonja Fick

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

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

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

Sacred Music
lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

July 7 ~ 6th Sunday after Trinity, "Know that you too have been called to serve on behalf of life at such a time as this. God continually equips you, and you will be in awe of what He is able to do in and through you. The best part is He had it planned in the beginning (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:16; Ephesians 2:10). May you be blessed as you continue to serve life in His image!" *Jordan Killinger is President of Rice for Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 14 ~ 7th Sunday after Trinity, "We are each created in God's image regardless of our abilities. He has called us to be His witnesses in the world. We are blessed for life—that we might be a BLESSING—glorifying Him in all we do. Because He has redeemed ME, my response to His everlasting love is to seek to do His will in all things and seek to serve. All His children, regardless of age (pre-born to wise with age), could seek to share God's love with each and every soul God has created." *Lori Solyom, Director of Development, Voice of Care – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 21 ~ 8th Sunday after Trinity, "We have the grace and truth of the Gospel to share—not only with women and men in crisis pregnancies but also with those so adamantly advocating for abortion. Why would we not share Christ with a lost and hurting people?" *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 28 ~ 9th Sunday after Trinity, "Let's get back to the basics and drown out the ugly message that death is the solution to life issues. God loves life and His creation. He has no desire for any of us to take our own life or the life of someone else. Our days are in His hands, not our own. May your For Life work be blessed, and may you be filled with the joy that comes with doing the Lord's work as a faithful servant." *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED OR ABOUT TO MOVE?

Please make sure that you notify Pastor if you would have any changes in your address, phone number or your email address. There are times when we may need to contact you. It can also help save money on postage. Thank you!



The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

> **What does God say about all these commandments?**
>
> He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5–6)
>
> **What does this mean?**
>
> God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
June 27, 2024

	04/2024	05/2024	06/2024
Deposits:	$ 19,780.96	$ 22,974.50	$ 6,584.12
Disbursements:	$ 15,387.69	$ 13,978.67	$ 23,311.89
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 15,654.34	$ 20,136.50	$ 6,579.12
Designated Funds:	$ 4,126.62	$ 2,838.00	$ 5.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 06/27			$ 62,490.07



IN OUR PRAYERS

Clair Tieszen, sister of Dorothy Wieczorek, has stage four cancer.
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, recovery at home



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will be holding VBS Sunday, July 21st—Thursday July 25th this year from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm. The Theme this year is From Above. If you have children that you would like to register, please take a registration form for each child, they are found on the credenza in the Narthex. Please turn a completed registration form in the offering box in the Narthex.

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, please see Pastor Nix.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is a "hymn"?

The word "hymn" comes from a Greek word which means "song of praise." Webster's Dictionary tells us that a hymn is "a song of praise especially in honor of God." In the Church, we sing hymns because they are God's Word put to music. What an awesome way to praise our Lord!



Why do we sing hymns?

During the early years of the Christian Church, its music came from the Psalms. As new people came into the Church, they added new hymns. The Church's hymns have stood the test of time, never failing God's people as generations change. When we sing hymns, we are praising God with the words He has already put on our tongues! There is no better way to pray, praise, and give thanks to God than with the words He has given us.

Parents: In order to answer questions as to why we do what we do as Lutherans, including utilizing the hymnody, read the introduction on pages 6 and 7 in *Lutheran Worship*. Here you will find a brief summary of what Lutheran worship and hymnody are all about.

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2024 Church Officers

President: Michael Grooms

Elders: Jay Holtz
Les Britson
Dan Monson

Secretary: Luther Brack

Financial Secretary: Rev Phillip Andreasen

Asst. to the Financial Secretary: Dustin Preheim
Luther Brack

Treasurer: Marty Johnson

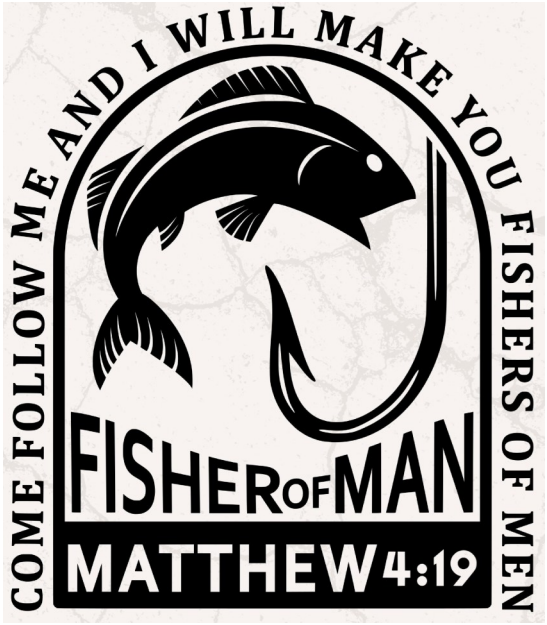
Trustees: Jonathan Fick
Andrew Brack
Dustin Preheim

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

2024

- July 21-25 VBS
- Sept 08 Voters Meeting
- Nov 03 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 1 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 08, 15, 22 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 08: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec TBA Children's Christmas Service
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service





What Is the World to Me

Lutheran Service Book 730 | study by J. H. Sorenson

Introduction

A very wealthy man thought he had made a shrewd arrangement to "take it with him" by making a huge contribution to "the Building Fund." He arrived at heaven's gate lugging a large trunk. The gatekeeper said, "Sorry, you can't take that in here," but the man insisted he had permission. The gatekeeper said, "We'll see. Show me what's in the trunk." He opened the trunk, and it was full of gold bars, a huge fortune. The gatekeeper said, "You brought paving?"

This modern parable illustrates something about the values of heaven and those of earth.

- What do you think is the main point of the story?
- Is anything like that story remotely possible? This hymn emphasizes and underlines a teaching that few people ever really learn.
- What evidence is there that St. Matthew learned it (Matt. 9:9–13)?
- How did following Jesus change him?

Exploring the Scriptures

In Luke 16:1–13, Jesus told the parable of the dishonest manager to teach the importance of eternal values. In discussing the matter, He told His disciples and us, "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (v. 13).

- What does the word "money" include?
- What are some of the "masters" we are susceptible to?

In 1 John 2:15–17, the apostle urges us not to love the world or the things of the world that appeal to our senses. In Phil. 3:7–9, Paul strongly and passionately says that he counts everything as rubbish compared to knowing Jesus Christ by faith.

- Do these two passages give a different message?
- Why is loving the "things of this world" not compatible with loving eternal things?
- What is the "tipping point" between love for God and love of money?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

The origin of this fine eighteenth-century hymn is a little bit cloudy. Most students of the matter agree that the author was Georg Michael Pfefferkorn (1645–1732), a teacher and pastor in Germany. However, the hymn first appeared anonymously, and lately it has been attributed to Balthasar Kindermann (d. 1706). It was translated into English by August Crull, who was born in Germany in 1845. He emigrated to the United States at an early age, and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1862. He served as pastor and teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and died in 1923.

Text

Pastor Crull used his gift as a poet in translating the key phrase of the hymn as "What is the world to me!" Its literal meaning in German is "What do I ask of the world?"

- Does the translation change the meaning of the phrase?
- What is the answer to the question, either way?

Stanza 1 of the hymn makes a bold statement of the changed value system of the Christian life, contrasting the world and its "vaunted pleasures" against the peace and rest of having Jesus as treasure and soul's delight.

- What are some of the "vaunted pleasures" of this world?

Stanza 2 considers the praise and honor of the "mighty" of this world, but finds them "frail and flighty" compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus.

- How are the "mighty" of this world "frail and flighty?"

In Stanza 3 the wealth of this world in money is contrasted to the wealth of knowing Jesus.

- How much money is enough?

The fourth stanza brings the main message of the hymn together in a striking way with a list of important things that Jesus means to the believer — wealth, treasure, life, health, friendship, love, pleasure, joy and eternal bliss.

- Can you think of a few more things to add to the list?

Continuation of "What Is the World to Me"

Making the Connection

Hard times often make people reevaluate their list of what is important in life.

- Have you had that kind of experience lately? Or ever?

Jesus said, "For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:25).

- Is it easier for a poor person to believe?
- How poor do you have to be?

"What Is the World to Me" is a hymn not only for the eighteenth century, but for the twenty-first century as well. It seems designed to make us think about what is important eternally, and who we have in first place in our lives.

In the lifetimes of most of us, we have seen unprecedented prosperity. Our nation, as a whole, is part of the wealthiest people the world has ever seen. Yet we have recently been hearing of the overwhelming greed of some of our fellow citizens — not only greed for money and possessions, but for power, for pleasure and whatever else the world may give.

- What are some of the signs of this trend?

Christians are not immune to these social trends, but by our Savior's grace we are called to ask the question, "What is the world to me?"

- How does this trend toward the values of this world show itself in the church?
- What can Christians do to work against this trend?

In Closing

Another parable that teaches a point similar to the story about the rich man who thought he had a way to "take it with him" is Jesus' parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16–21). A man is so wealthy he has no place to store all his goods. He decides to tear down his barns and build bigger ones, thinking that then he will be at ease. "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20–21).

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 730.

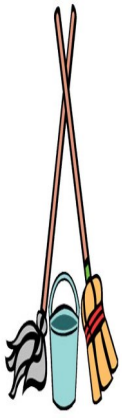
Prayer

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all covetous desires and the inordinate love of riches. Deliver us from the pursuit of passing things that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His righteousness and so find blessedness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (Against the love of money, LSB, p. 311).

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.



Sermon Text and Titles for July

July 7th, ***"Jesus Fulfills What You Can't"*** **St. Matthew 5:17**

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
Romans 6:(1-2) 3-11
St. Matthew 5:17-28

July 14th– Pastor Andreasen **"The Great Gifts of God"** **Mark 8:1-9**

Genesis 2:7-17
Psalm 33:1-11
Romans 6:19-23
St. Mark 8:1-9

July 21st ***"How do You Know Good from Bad "*** **St. Matthew 7:16**

Jeremiah 23:16-29
Psalm 26
Romans 8:12-17
St. Matthew 7:15-23

July 28th ***"Are You Afraid of Being Removed?"*** **St. Luke 16:4**

2 Samuel 22:26-34
Psalm 51:1-12
1 Corinthians 10:6-13
St. Luke 16:1-13

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