OCTOBER 2024

GOOD NEWS from Christ Lutheran Church

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

Sacred Music 24/7
lutheranpublicradio.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

From the Reporter

Celebrating life: Pro-life advocates meet to discuss post-Dobbs strategies

By Frank Kohn From the LSCM Reporter, August 7, 2024

For years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., joining tens of thousands to march to the U.S. Supreme Court on the anniversary of its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion in all 50 states. Lutherans stand out, as they do in other marches around the country, by wearing green hats and ball caps provided by LCMS Life Ministry, singing hymns, and confessing their faith in creed and prayer.

The efforts of LCMS Life Ministry have not gone unnoticed by other organizations that have done yeoman's work in fighting for the protection of life in the womb. One of those organizations, Sidewalk Advocates for Life (SAFL), invited Life Ministry to participate in the first Celebrate Life Weekend June 21–23, also in Washington, D.C., to mark the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling, which overturned *Roe v. Wade,* on June 24, 2022.

The Celebrate Life mission is to "unite pro-life women and men to celebrate, collaborate, and strategize for the protection of preborn children and to make abortion unthinkable in our culture." Attendees from numerous organizations discussed strategies to protect unborn children. A conference was also offered with breakout sessions on subjects such as empowering women to counter falsehoods about abortion and taking action to save lives.

Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, managing director for Human Care and Ministerial Support for the LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM), presented a session on "Activating 'Life Disciples' in Your Church Community." She discussed how LCMS Life Ministry equips and encourages congregations to educate their members of all ages on God's design for life, the family and marriage — in the church and home. Manor unpacked the foundation for the LCMS' educational efforts — the distinction between Law and Gospel, which "are really important concepts when teaching about the sanctity of human life," she said.

Manor also gave advice on how to

(Continued on page 8)

BIRTHDAYS

October

09 Bernard Ewoldt
12 Tina Counts
14 Zoey Deutsch
16 Ruthie Wetzel
19 Austin Preheim
21 Les Britson
26 Susan Powell

ANNIVERSARIES

October

20 Duane & Bonnie Ellis
23 Daniel & Phyllis Monson

BAPTISMS

08 Emily Nix
17 Bonnie Ellis
20 Blake Doohen



Life Thoughts in the Church Year (Lutherans for Life)

October 6, 19th Sunday after Trinity ~ "Having received God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His divine services to us in our congregations, we jointly put on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) in the public square, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. In so doing, we advocate for the sanctity of life from the moment of fertilization and pray that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our communities." *Dr. Roni Grad, Catalina Lutheran Church Life Team and National Lutherans For Life Board of Directors member – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 13, 20th Sunday after Trinity ~ "To God, all life is sacred because He created it. With their faith, the great multitude will stand before the Lamb on Judgment Day, just as we will. So, to us who follow Jesus, we must continue to uphold the sanctity of life for each person, no matter the nation, language, or their political stance." *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 20, 21st Sunday after Trinity ~ "God's grace is costly (the Cross is the best symbol of all) and God is 'for us, not against us' because God is the God of creation and nature, history and eternal destiny (Romans 8). Here St. Paul reminds us that we are all adopted into Christ. Just as we are all transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12), so the Gospel has shaped our earthly adoptions and our families—now including three beautiful granddaughters! In our Triune God we are born to a new and living hope, a pro-life and pro-adoption one!" *Pastor Leon and Terri Rosenthal – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 27, Reformation Day "Do not doubt, dear sister, dear brother, in the midst of your piercing grief, that you are not alone. Jesus stands with you and the whole company of His heaven stands with you, God's gang, you might say. So stand firm with God as your mighty fortress, for you are not alone. But the 'same kinds of suffering you are experiencing are being experienced by your sisters and brothers throughout the world,' 1 Peter tells us. Yes, the people who are mourning are blessed because they will be comforted." *Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



TRUNK OR TREAT

The Scouts will once again be hosting a Trunk or Treat from the church's parking lot on Saturday, October 26th, the time will be announced. The members of Christ are invited to participate. The children are welcome to come take part in the treats and play games, etc. Adults (kids at heart) are invited to decorate their car trunks and bring treats if they would like. If any questions, please see Steve Counts.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LCMS Stewardship Ministry—lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article—October 2024

"The Singing Church"

Lutherans have historically been called "the singing church." There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, "We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise." Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

> Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
> For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
> For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
> that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as "the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing life's resources for His purposes." God's love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord's House. At the Lord's Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

Martin Luther, "Preface to Georg Rhau's Symphoniae iucundae," in Luther's Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Terri Stangeland, mother of Michael, has cancer.
Bonnie Ellis recovering from a hip replacement
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Susan Powell, recovering from a fractured leg
Elva Clauson, recovery at home

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 27, 2024

	07/2024	08/2024	09/2024
Deposits:	$ 11,315.36	$ 9,528.20	$ 23,129.25
Disbursements:	$ 27,899.61	$ 13,856.78	$ 14,345.71
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 11,284.61	$ 9,354.20	$ 20,627.25
Designated Funds:	$ 30.75	$ 174.00	$ 2,502.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 21,234.00	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 09/27			$ 56,090.00

Sermon Text and Titles for October

October 6th — ***"Does Jesus See Your Faith?"*** — ***St. Matthew 9:2***
Genesis 28:10-7
Psalm 84
Ephesians 4:22-28
St. Matthew 9:1-8

October 13th — ***"Do You Give the Master His Fruit?*** — ***St. Matthew 21:34***
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 27:1-9
Ephesians 5:15-21
St. Matthew 21:33-44

October 20th — ***"Do You Believe the Words Jesus Speaks to You"*** — **St. John 4:50**
Genesis 1:1-2:3
Psalm 8
Ephesians 6:10-17
St. John 4:46-54

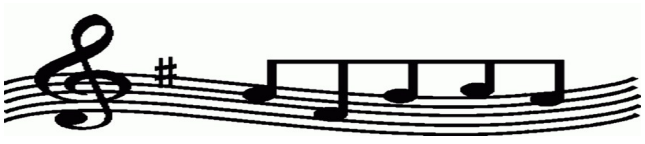
October 27th — ***"What is the truth? "*** — ***St. John 8:32***
Revelation 14:6-7
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
St. John 8:31-36



Adult Choir and Bell Choir



Adult Choir Practice begins on Wednesday, October 9th at 7pm. Bell Choir practice will begin in November. Everyone is welcome to join either or both groups and be a part of the music ministry at Christ. Please talk to Lynette if you have any questions 605-351-3245.



Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Lutheran Service Book 708 | study by Randy P. Wurschmidt

Introduction

As the young woman lies dying in her hospital bed, the pastor is urgently summoned. He brings with him his well-used Pastoral Care Companion; anticipating that death is imminent, he opens to the "Commendation of the Dying." Prayers are prayed, psalms are chanted, Scriptures are read; after the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, he sings the Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace." (LSB Pastoral Care Companion [CPH, 2007], p. 93). Then he sings stanza 3 of this hymn: "Lord, let at last Thine angels come." (LSB Pastoral Care Companion, p. 93). It is a beautiful and confident way for the Christian to face death, trusting in God's promise of the resurrection, in the hope of eternal life in heaven. This stanza is famously used as the final chorale in J. S. Bach's St. John Passion, giving the Good Friday narrative an appropriate ending: not with our Lord dead on the cross, but with the open tomb, and death defeated.

- Is a Christian's death different from the death of an unbeliever? Why or why not?
- What is the benefit of the pastor being at the bedside of one who is dying?

Exploring the Scriptures

Anyone who is paying attention knows that this life is far from perfect. There are disappointments and heartache, illness and pain. "Change and decay in all around I see," we sing in another favorite hymn of trust and hope (LSB 878:4). And of course, there is death. Most people think of death as an unfortunate but normal part of life. There may be some vague thought of heaven (never hell!) for the nice people; for some, death means simply disintegration back into the earth, and no more. But there is more; there is much more, for Jesus has promised to return on the Last Day and raise the dead.

It won't be just the righteous that He raises, but all people, as we confess in the Nicene Creed, "I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" (LSB, p. 191). The Athanasian Creed goes even further, stating, "And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire" (LSB, p. 320), meaning that those who have rejected Jesus will experience weeping and gnashing of teeth in eternal damnation.

- Read 1 Cor. 15:12–28. When (or who) is the beginning of death and the end of death, according to verse 21? Why should this give us hope?
- Read Psalm 90. How should we consider this life, in light of this psalm? Should we put our hope and trust in the things of our life now?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

The text was written by Martin Schalling (1532–1608), a Lutheran pastor and theologian who was a disciple of the reformer Philipp Melanchthon, author of the Augsburg Confession. Martin Schalling lived during a time of intense religious strife, which reached even outside Germany and throughout Europe. As the Reformation moved forward, the Roman Catholics often fought back, countering with their own documents and creeds. At that time, Germany was composed of many small principalities and kingdoms. It was up to each individual ruler to decide on the religious confession of his territory, leading to many changes as rulers came and went. Unfortunately, these battles of words often spilled out into battles of swords, and many were killed in wars and power struggles during this time.

Even if we were without religious strife, death is still a universal problem in this life, and all Christians should be able to confess the truths sung in this hymn, finding comfort in these words.

- What would be some of the challenges for a pastor in a time of ever-changing allegiances? Could you continue to confess the truth even if your job or your life depended on it?

Text

In the first stanza, we are reminded that earth's pleasures are no match for eternal life in heaven, and that the most important thing for us is to be in the presence of God.

- Where does Jesus promise to be when we gather for the Divine Service each Sunday?

In the second stanza, we are reminded of the Creed, as you may have learned it from the Small Catechism. So in the meaning of the First Article, Luther writes, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them" (LSB, p. 322). We pray that the devil, the world and our own flesh would not

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What are "vestments"?

When you first see the pastor and his assistants in the Divine Service, what do you notice about them? They are wearing long robes and other unique garments. These are called "vestments." The word "vestment" comes from the Latin word *vestimentum* which means "garment of office." Vestments are garments worn by the pastor and the assistants during the Divine Service and other prayer offices.



Why are vestments used?

A person's vestment tells us about who they are and their role during the Divine Service. If you have two or more pastors, one may be dressed in vestments that mark him as the presiding minister. The other pastors may be dressed in vestments that mark them as assisting ministers. Vestments help to keep the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments in good order. Did you know that God's people have been using vestments since Old Testament times? Wow! Vestments are great tools in the church!

Parents: Before the Divine Service, direct your child's attention to the pastor's vestments. What color are they? How are they different from what you are wearing? Be sure to let your child approach the pastor after church to ask him questions about the vestments.

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Women of Christ Bible Study

We are beginning our monthly Bible study again on Saturday, October 12th at 10am. All the women of Christ are invited. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Johnson or Monica Andreasen.



UPCOMING 2024

2024

- 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



Daylight Savings time Ends on November 3rd at 2 am

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

When we listen to the sermon, we ask three simple questions:

1) **How often is Jesus mentioned? [Keep a tally.]**
2) **If Jesus is mentioned, is He the subject of the verbs? [Is Jesus performing the verbs?]**
3) **What are those verbs? (The Gospel isn't Jesus your example, educator, life–coach [encourage-or] or therapist. The Gospel is Jesus, your crucified and risen Savior from sin and death.)**

— A Listener's Guide to the Pulpit (Updated) by Pr. Todd Wilken [https://bit.ly/2ZCjeCx]

betray us, or lead us into temptation or doubt.

- According to this stanza, how do we glorify God's "lavish grace"? To whom is our own love directed?

Sing the third stanza now, if you have not already. Here we have the heart and soul of this hymn. Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). All roads point to the end. The whole life of a Christian is one preparing for death. And in these words, we confess to what end we have held steadfast: "That these mine eyes with joy may see, / O Son of God, Thy glorious face, / My Savior and my fount of grace."

- Each stanza closes with the refrain, "Lord Jesus Christ." Compare each of these, and describe how, just from the last phrase, each stanza summarizes our life of faith.

Making the Connection

When the Pharisees tested Jesus, asking, "Which is the great commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered by saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 22:36–40). This hymn sums up these commandments very well: we love God because He loved us first, and gave His only begotten Son for the forgiveness of our sins; we love our neighbor because God has given us everything we need for this life and the next.

This we do when we share Jesus' body and blood at the rail with fellow saints. We do this when we receive the forgiveness of sins promised from the cross, and forgive those who trespass against us. We love our neighbors when we help them in time of need, pray for and with them and comfort them with the beautiful hymns of our faith.

- In times of distress, have you ever just sat down with your hymnal open and sung? Why or why not?

- How does our own selfishness and sin keep us from facing death without fear?

In Closing

"We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things," we confess in the meaning of the First Commandment (LSB, p. 321). As you know, this is easier said than done, because by nature we look to other gods. This is why we need to regularly hear the Word of God, why we need to regularly hear the words of absolution from our pastors, why we need to regularly receive Jesus' body and blood: to ease our burdened consciences, and to strengthen our faith in God and our fervent love for our neighbor. For God has promised salvation to you, and baptized you into His life and death. He has assured you that as His sons and daughters, you will inherit eternal life with Him on account of Christ, who covers all your sins in His own righteousness. Therefore, sing this hymn with all boldness and confidence. Sing it now if you haven't already. And sing it as you journey from this life into death and into life everlasting.

Prayer

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (Hope of eternal life in Christ, LSB, p. 313).

(Continued from page 1)
engage congregation members in pro-life activity.

"Start with [getting] a group of people together to commit to prayer, to commit to study[ing] the Bible," Manor said. "As more people become engaged and interested, as everyone has the same understanding of what God says about … His creation of life, then folks might be more interested in hearing what the congregation can do to get involved, and then to connect with partners in the community."

Manor noted that communities are different and recommended checking in "with partners, other churches, pregnancy resource centers, physicians, even your local policy makers" to see what the unmet needs are. She suggested asking how women, children and families are underserved in a community and what might be done to address those needs. "Then you can figure out what your congregation can offer your community."

Also representing the LCMS in D.C. were the Rev. Daniel Galchutt, ONM executive director, and the Rev. James Douthwaite, pastor of St. Athanasius Lutheran Church in nearby Vienna, Va.

Galchutt gave the opening prayer for the gala on Friday evening. The following morning, Douthwaite gave a devotion before attendees headed to the Lincoln Memorial for a rally in 100-degree heat.

In his devotion, Douthwaite encouraged conference attendees dismayed by the efforts in many states to keep abortion legal.

"The *Dobbs* decision was great. A step in the right direction, but only a step," he said. "Since then there have been setbacks — states enacting laws and amending their constitutions in ways that do not support life. … All of which is a reminder to us that the right laws and more laws may help, but … the answer is Jesus. The answer is to change hearts."

"Changing the law is hard," Douthwaite continued. "It took 50 years to get *Dobbs*, but hearts are harder still." Douthwaite referenced Ecclesiastes 3:9 — "What gain has the worker from his toil?" — acknowledging that those who advocate for life "may not see results. You may want to throw up your hands and give up." Yet, he said pro-lifers' efforts are never in vain. "As Isaiah reminds us, God's Word never returns empty, but accomplishes that for which God purposes and succeeds in the thing for which He sends it [Isaiah 55:11]. And that is true for His written word, His spoken word and especially His Word made flesh in Jesus.

"He is still giving life and redeeming life, and so we will continue to celebrate His gift of life and fight to protect it."