GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2024

FROM PASTOR NIX

This Summer has been different to say the least. We have had lots to do (most recently VBS) and still we have more ahead (Lutheran Family Services presentation). Through it all one thing remains the same. We share the never changing story of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Whatever the seasons through at us that message of Jesus going to the cross to pay for all of our sins gives us focus. It doesn't matter if that message is being shared with our young people here at the church, or if it is being shared with those who are struggling out in the community. That is where we are given our hope. We understand that we can not go it alone. We also understand that Jesus is the only one who is able to pick us up from the devastation of sin.

I would like to thank all those who have stepped forward to help us this summer and also those who have committed to helping during the new school year. Without all of you, we would not be able to carry forward the work of Christ here at Christ Lutheran Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Nix



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BIRTHDAYS

August

04 Cody Doohen
04 Naarah Fick
04 Micah Holtz
16 Jeremiah Deardoff
18 Blake Doohen
18 Kaden Johnson
20 Daniel Nix
23 Leah Preheim
26 Rick Guenther
31 Bonnie Ellis

ANNIVERSARIES

August

05 Pr. Raymond & Tamara Hartwig
27 Martin & Lisa Johnson

BAPTISMS

02 Martin Johnson
14 Michael Deutsch
16 Ethan Hericks
22 Micah Holtz
23 Heather Johnson
24 Stephanie Preheim



Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

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

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

August 4, 10th Sunday after Trinity ~ "If the Christian church is passionate about protecting every life, then we will need to learn how to meet relational needs. When an unplanned pregnancy happens, the baby's parents often have massive needs to help them grow as people and, perhaps, as a couple. Could you be God's way of meeting such needs?" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 11, 11th Sunday after Trinity ~ "Not only does Scripture provide God's intent and meaning, it also encourages us to be truthful (Proverbs 12:19), timely (Proverbs 17:28; Matthew 18:15), gentle (Titus 3:2), and more. Most importantly, it reminds us, in God we find the strength to speak truth in the face of evil (Psalm 118:6; Ephesians 6:13). Stand strong, choose words carefully, and remember the Lion's got your back." *James MacGregor, COL, USA (RET), Director at Large, LFL of Kansas Director-at-Large – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 18, 12th Sunday after Trinity ~ "Through our vocations, both permanent and temporary, Christians are gifted opportunities to share the Gospel-motivated message that every life is valuable, and in so doing, carry the light of Christ into dark places filled with sin and death. It's true, this work won't always be easy; there may be times when we wonder about the path God has placed us on. But we can be confident that we aren't traveling alone. Christ goes with us, and His grace is sufficient. Always." *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 25, 13th Sunday after Trinity ~ "We live in the presence of evil. Some of it is twisted to sound good. We hear of 'the compassionate relief of suffering' or 'death with dignity' or 'right to health care' or 'simple medical procedure.' You know many more. God calls us to confront these with His truth, to reveal the evil behind them. God calls us to educate fellow Christians in His truth so they do not end up 'possessed' by this way of thinking. God calls us to call evil what it is, but also to share the truth of what God has done about evil. For that we fix our gaze upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He speaks to us through His Word of truth and grace." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Sacred Music 24/7
lutheranpublicradio.org



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry ~ Newsletter article – August 2024

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



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.





SIOUX FALLS AREA MAIN STREET LIVING CHOIR

We are planning to resume the Sioux Falls Area Main Street Living Choir this fall. We have practices and tapings scheduled for Saturdays, September 14, October 12 and November 9 starting at 1:00 pm. We will gather in the Sanctuary at Zion Lutheran Church, 1400 Spring Ave, Sioux Falls under the direction of Rev. Howard Shane. Please prayerfully consider becoming a member of this Choir as we join our voices together for the Main Street Living Worship Services. If interested, please contact Maxine Farden (mmfarden@gmail.com) so she can put together a Contact List for sharing more information regarding this Choir.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
August 01, 2024

	05/2024	06/2024	07/2024
Deposits:	$ 22,974.50	$ 19,889.62	$ 11,315.36
Disbursements:	$ 13,978.76	$ 35,526.21	$ 27,899.61
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 20,136.50	$ 19,884.62	$ 11,284.61
Designated Funds:	$ 2,838.00	$ 5.00	$ 30.75
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00	$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 08/01			$ 58,226.71



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, recovery at home

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES FOR AUGUST

August 4th, Jeremiah 7:1-11 Psalm 92 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 St. Luke 19:41-48	***"Are You a Principal Man?"***	***St. Luke 19:47***
August 11th ~ Pastor Wolfram Genesis 4:1-15 Psalm 50:7-23 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 St. Luke 18:9-14	**Lutheran Family Service**	**TBA**
August 18th Isaiah 29:17-24 Psalm 146 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 St. Mark 7:31-37	***"How Well Do You Hear and Speak?"***	***St. Mark 7:32***
August 25th 2 Chronicles 28:8-15 Psalm 32 Galatians 5:16-24 St. Luke 17:24-34	***"Do You Want to Justify Yourself?"***	***St. Luke 10:29***

VBS 2024

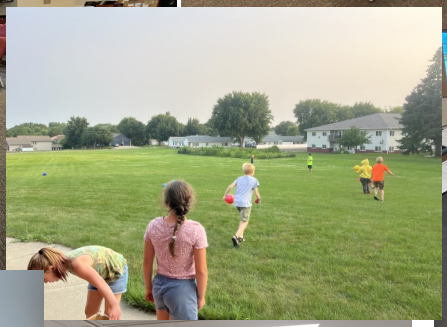
From Above
HIGHER THINGS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We held Vacation Bible School on July 21st—25th. We used the Higher Things "From Above" lessons. The children learned about how God saves us from above, the Tower of Babel, Jesus: God from Above, the bronze serpent, Vocation: God from Above, the story of Zacchaeus and Baptism: God from above, the story of the Philippian Jailor's conversion.

We had an average of 16 children each night. We would like to thank all of the people who helped out with VBS this year. Those who donated their time, talents and gifts, from donating items/ food to those who worked with the kids. Thank you to the parents who also brought their children in to take part in VBS. We had a good group of kids and as always wonderful people to help our children learn of the love of Christ. We look forward to next year









Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

Lutheran Service Book 559 | study by Thomas E. Lock

Introduction

What is natural man's capacity to believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation? This question was one of the chief controversies of the Reformation, even as it is today. While some seek to make a "decision for Jesus" and others teach that man can prepare himself for saving faith, our Lutheran forefathers confessed:

> [I]n mankind's nature since the fall, before regeneration, there is not the least spark of spiritual power remaining or present. No person can prepare himself for God's grace or accept the grace God offers… . He is sin's servant (John 8:34) and the devil's captive, by whom he is moved (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:26). Therefore, the natural free will according to its perverted disposition and nature is strong and active only to do what is displeasing and contrary to God [Genesis 6:5]. (SD II 7)

- Before a person is converted to faith in Christ, to whom does he or she belong? Can that person break free from such slavery? Who is the only one who can break the chains that bind man to sin and the devil?
- What is the importance of a person being converted to Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit?

Exploring the Scriptures

Read Eph. 2:1–10.

- What is the original state of every person since the fall into sin (1–3)? Whose desires are really fulfilled when people walk in their trespasses and sins?
- God could have left people in their sin and death. However, He made you alive. What compelled God to enliven "dead people" (4–5)?
- God has made you alive and saved you that you may also live with Him in heaven (6–7). What two gifts were given to save people (8–9)?
- The gift of grace is unmerited forgiveness and salvation. The gift of faith is that which holds onto grace. Who does the work of salvation? What place has human pride or works in this salvation by grace and through faith?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

Both parents of Johannes Olearius (1611–84) died in the space of one year before his twelfth birthday. He was befriended by a lawyer, Andreas Sartorius, and educated in Halle. In 1629 Olearius enrolled at the University of Wittenberg, where he received his MA in 1632 and became a Doctor of Theology in 1643. He began lecturing at Wittenberg in 1632. He married Catherine Elisabethe Merk. She bore him five sons, all of whom (like Olearius and his father) became pastors. In 1643 Olearius was appointed court preacher and father confessor at Halle for the Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels. By 1664 he was appointed general superintendent (overseeing pastor) of the church body there. In 1680 he was appointed to the same position in Weissenfels, serving until his death in 1684.

Olearius was raised and trained in a time of great turmoil within the Lutheran Church. Two theologies would drive a wedge in the Church in Germany: Pietism and Rationalism. Where orthodox Lutheranism put the seat of authority in (1) the revealed Word of God, and (2) the confession of faith derived from that Word of God (the Lutheran Confessions), Pietism placed the authority in the heart of each person; Rationalism did the same, except that the authority resided in the mind of each person. Both Rationalism and Pietism deemphasized the Sacraments of Christ. Olearius was an orthodox Lutheran minister who fought against Pietism, having grown up and served in Halle, the home of Pietism. In his hymns he wrote consistently of the unmerited grace of God.

- God's Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion and Holy Absolution are not only the means for delivering God's grace to people, they are also

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

witnesses of His work among us. Why is it important, then, to rely on His Word and Sacraments instead of one's own thoughts or feelings?

- How have the struggles of our current age (e.g., spiritualism versus Christianity; evolution versus God's creation of the world from nothing in the space of six days; reliance upon man's thoughts and feelings versus God's Word and Sacraments; man-centered worship versus Christ-centered Divine Service) found voice in the preaching and hymnody of the Church?

Text

Read the Holy Gospel for this day, Luke 18:9–14, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

- Which one sinned? Actually, they both were sinners. What was the difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector? Read stanzas 1 and 2 of our hymn. According to the hymn, from where does salvation come, and what compels this gift? To where are people led? This use of "His supper" in the hymn calls to mind Luke 14:16–24, the parable of the great banquet. Where does this feast now take place?
- Read stanzas 3 and 4. In translated work, one cannot always see the nuances of the original text. The "Witnesses" in the English text are the "Sacraments and Word." However, the German text is more explicit, calling the witnesses "Holy Baptism" and "the Lord's Supper" (Tauff und Abendmahl). How do Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper serve as witnesses of the Spirit? According to Acts 2:38–42, the lives of the baptized saints of God are focused around the Divine Service, where they receive the witness of the Spirit through the Word and in the Supper. Read Matt. 26:29 and 28:20. The promises in these verses are fulfilled in the Divine Service, where Christ is present with His saints. It is in the Divine Service that saints drink Christ's blood with the wine in His "Father's kingdom." Will Christ ever leave His Church, His communion of saints?
- Read stanza 5. It is the same as stanza 1 except for which phrase?

Making the Connection

Great hymns of the Church do not sing only for certain times or ages. They are timeless. They confess the faith in song from generation to generation. What has been sung, you now sing, and those who follow will likewise sing. It is a wonderful thing to be part of such a heritage of faith.

- How have Holy Baptism and Holy Communion shaped your life of faith? How do they continue to shape that life?
- What do the tangible Word and Sacraments deliver to you? How do the giving and receiving of God's Word and Sacraments relate to Eph. 2:8–9?
- Having studied of your salvation by God through the death of Jesus Christ — even against your own free will — are you now more willing to sing or say, "I will praise Your great compassion"?

In Closing

The free will spouts all sorts of evil and defiles each person. But God, out of His great compassion, has saved you. With that salvation comes also your enlightening by His gifts of His Word, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; these grant you forgiveness of sins and strengthen the gift of faith, which holds onto unmerited, ever-gracious salvation. This is the message of the Church. This is the message Johannes Olearius placed on your lips for you to confess.

- In thanksgiving for these wonderful gifts, sing or read aloud together LSB 559.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity).

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is a "psalm"?

If you open a Bible to the middle, you might find the book of Psalms. The psalms are prayers and praises to God. During Old Testament times, the psalms were sung during worship in the temple. The book of Psalms was like the hymnal of the Old Testament.

Why do we sing them in church on Sunday?

Many of the psalms were written to use in worship. Christians have been singing psalms to the Lord since the beginning. Colossians 3:16 instructs us to use psalms, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."



Parents: Before or after the service, show your child where to find the book of Psalms in the Bible. Remind them that these are prayers and praises to God that He gave to us. There's no better way to worship than with the words He has given! Try using one in your devotions at home.

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

2024

- 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



Flower Chart

The 2024 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.

Lutheran Family Service

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

For more than a century, Lutheran Family Service has walked with people through good times and challenging times, being there for them just as God has been there for us. Jesus is the cornerstone of our ministry and the focus of all we do. Some of the programs that are offered are Christian Mental Health and Marriage Counseling, LCMS Pastor and Church Worker Wellness, Christian Adoption and Pregnancy counseling. On Sunday, August 11th, Pastor Wolfram will be here at Christ Lutheran Church. He will be our guest Pastor and will use the Bible Study time to share about their services in South Dakota.

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