January 2024

GOOD NEWS

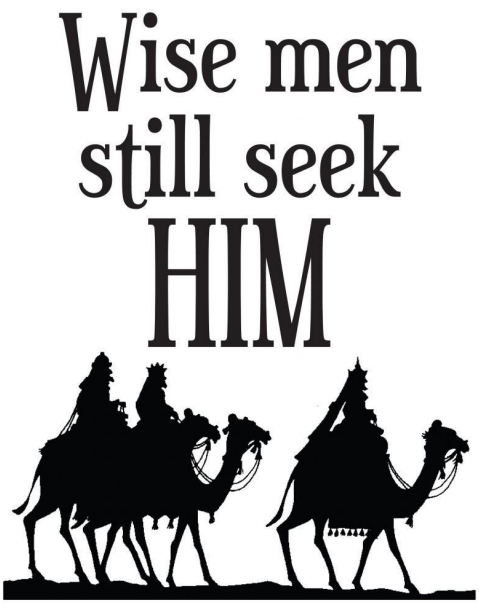
From Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church
4801 E. 6th St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Phone: 605-338-3769
Web: christsiouxfalls.org
Member: Issues, Etc., 300
Pastor: Matthew Nix

FROM THE PASTOR

What a difference a year makes

I would like to thank the many people that have volunteered this past year. Once again we had a year where all of our officer positions were filled (we look forward to the same this year). We had people step in and step up, when some of our members stepped down or stepped out. It is good to see people volunteering and looking for ways to serve God and their neighbor.



This year some of our ladies formed the "Women of Christ" Bible study and service group. When I moved to town Christ Lutheran had three such groups in which the ladies of our congregation could meet, study scripture and have service projects to serve our members and those outside our walls. These groups, one by one, shrank and stopped due to a variety of reasons. It is good to see this group start up and grow. So, thank you to all that have been involved.

We have also seen the reestablishment of our bell choir. They played for Christmas eve and this week will start practicing for Ash Wednesday. The goal is to make this a regular part of the Divine Service. We are also close to starting up our vocal choir again. We have a number of members signed up, I believe we are now looking for someone to accompany that group. When that person is lined, they should be ready to start practicing.

Christ Lutheran has had a long, rich, history of being a musical congregation. Music is such a vital part of worship and provides opportunity to thank God and encourage others with one more gift that God has blessed us with. It is nice to see that tradition pick back up.

The Altar Guild is in the prosses of reorganizing. The goal is to meet three or four times a year, discuss any changes that have or might take place, gain a deeper understanding of what it is and why we do the things the way we do. One example is that the pastor and elders now consume the consecrated wine after the service. This has created a need to change the way and how much

(Continued on page 8)

Voters Meeting, Jan 21, 2024 after Divine Service

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

09 Jaenine Na Kirindo
09 Oliver Ruguruza
10 Michael Grooms
10 Paul Schilf
11 Terry Englemann
18 Vickie Britson
19 Addie Wetzel
20 James Reynolds
26 Samuel Counts



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300
PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused



Life Quotes

January 7 ~ Baptism of Our Lord, "What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 14 ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany, "Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior's victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege. Let's press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 21 ~ Transfiguration, "As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 28 ~ Septuagesima, "The Holy Spirit teaches us and enables us to be more effective with our body language, to hold the hands of those who are afraid of walking alone, to hug the ones who are falling apart for whatever reason, to lift those who sinned against God and against their brothers. We do all this by sharing the forgiveness that is found in Christ." *Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



ADULT CHURCH CHOIR

we hope to get this going soon. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the Credenza. We are also looking for a piano accompanist for this group. Please talk to Lynette or Cynthia if you have any questions



BELL CHOIR

We will begin practicing again on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30pm. Please join us if you are interested. If you have any questions please talk to Lynette .

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article ~ January 2024

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin that stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



Position Available

The voting assembly of Christ Lutheran approved the hiring of a paid office and custodial assistant. The position may require a maximum of up to 19 regular hours per week with a flexible schedule. Responsibilities will include developing, printing, folding of church communications (i.e., bulletins, newsletters, reports), answering phone calls, updating, and maintaining various church records, light general cleaning and assisting the pastor as needed. Excellent verbal and written communication skills with attention to detail are necessary. Interested parties should contact Paul Schilf at 605-376-0981 or via email at pauls@popplersmusic.com.

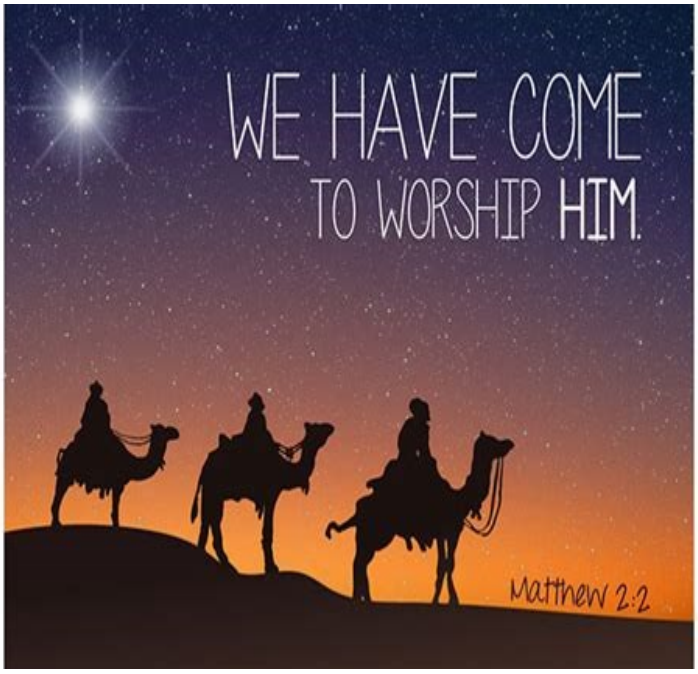
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 20, 2021

	10/2021	11/2021	12/2021
Deposits:	$ 31,698.73	$ 20,097.54	$ 25,165.08
Disbursements:	$ 11,005.99	$ 11,891.90	$- 5,878.04
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 23,165.73	$ 20,068.54	$ 22,396.08
Designated Funds:	$ 8,533.00	$ 29.00	$ 2,769.00
Interest:	$ 0.56	$ 0.66	
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 15,628.60	$ $12,502.88	$ 12,502.88
Mortgage Balance as of 12/31/2021			$281,954.09



IN OUR PRAYERS

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





WITHIN THE FATHER'S HOUSE
Lutheran Service Book 410
Study by Shawn L. Kumm

Introduction

There aren't many accounts in Scripture concerning twelve year-olds. In God's Word much space is devoted to the writings and goings-on of adults. Jesus Himself draws our attention to just how precious infants and small children are to the heart of God. But preteens and adolescents? They seem to be seriously under- represented.

Oh, there are a few examples: David, when he goes to fight Goliath, is described as "a youth" (1 Sam. 17:33); there is the reckless and heartbreaking vow of Jephthah and its deadly effect on his daughter (Judges 11:29–40); and there is the twelve-year-old king Manasseh who reigned for 55 years but whose kingship is summarized in these sad words, "And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (2 Kings 21:1–2).

So we are a bit surprised and refreshed to find another twelve-year-old making the pages of Scripture. That there is a hymn written about an adolescent is even more amazing. Today's hymn has us sing of the most famous preteen of all — Jesus, the Son of Mary, the Son of God.

- What other examples from Scripture can you think of in which young people are highlighted?
- What are the benefits to the whole people of God when biblical accounts that include young people are taught?

Exploring the Scriptures

Many Christians know the events surrounding the first days and weeks of Jesus' life: the announcement by Gabriel, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, His circumcision on the eighth day, at forty days His presentation in the temple, and the adoration of the Magi. St. Luke then writes, "And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40). Silence. Then there is silence for the next twelve years.

- Why is Scripture silent on most of Jesus' childhood?
- According to Eccl. 12:1–7, what is the benefit of youth? When a young person knows God, for what things in life does such knowledge prepare him or her?

The Holy Gospel appointed for today opens one small window into the life of Jesus. Read Luke 2:41–52.

- In verse 41, what piece of information do we learn about the family of Jesus? In what ways is this information of great importance to understanding Jesus' ministry?

When Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus, St. Luke first records what they did. Not until later are we told how they felt.

- What feelings of Mary and Joseph are described in verse 48?

In verse 49 Jesus speaks of His "Father," and in verse 51 we are told Jesus returned to Nazareth with "them," that is, Joseph and Mary.

- In what ways does Jesus demonstrate He can perfectly live in the tension of the summary of the first three commandments, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut. 6:5) and the Fourth Commandment, "Honor your father and mother" (Deut. 5:16)?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

What an honor it would be to rub elbows with the theological doctors of the Church and serve the monarch of the nation. That was the life of James Russell Woodford (1820–1885), this hymn's author. As a priest in the Church of England, Woodford showed exemplary scholarship and pastoral wisdom. His exceptional gifts led to service as an Honorary Chaplain to Queen Victoria.

Education was a particular focus of Woodford's, and he established a theological college where twelve students lived and were trained for work in the Church. His contributions to commentaries and sermon collections indicate that Woodford took seriously the study of God's Word. He delved into Scripture so that the living Word would be heard and read by many.

- How might the facts above have contributed to Woodford's interest in Luke 2:41–52?

It is easy to see why the account of Jesus in the middle of the teachers of the temple would catch Woodford's interest and set into motion his poetic pen. Not only did Woodford write theology that could be read in biblical commentaries and heard in sermon collec-

Continues on page 6

tions, but he also wrote theology that could be sung.

Text

Through the omission of one of the original stanzas, the framework of this hymn is now neatly divided into three sets of two stanzas each. In stanzas 1 and 2 Woodford provides a straightforward description of the scene. The first words of the hymn — "Within the Father's house"— make us curious to know who is in the house and what kind of house this is.

- Compare the details of the first two stanzas with the text of Luke 2:41–52. Which specifics did Woodford include? Which did he choose to omit?

Throughout Jesus' ministry His message of forgiveness will be at odds with the religious leaders and teachers of the Law.

- Which word in stanza 2 does Woodford choose to indicate the Gospel content of Jesus' questions and answers?

Stanzas 3 and 4 get to the heart of the matter. In stanza 4 Woodford uses the word "epiphany," which means to make manifest or to show brightly.

- Connect the use of "veil" in stanza 3 with the curtain or veil in Luke 23:45. What is the "secret of the Lord" that is finally shown to the world?

After singing the objective statements of stanzas 1–4 the hearer, the singer, is brought personally into the account of Jesus in the temple through the use of the pronouns "our" and "us" and "we." The truths of this hymn are now appropriated to us. Stanza 5 moves directly into stanza 6; there is no punctuation dividing them.

- Read 1 Cor. 13:12. For what does Woodford have us pray in the last two stanzas? When — and where — will this finally be fulfilled?

Making the Connection

In His ministry Jesus is found in the temple during another Passover. First read John 2:13–20 and then read 1 Cor. 6:19.

- Discuss how the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God and the water of Baptism to connect you who are described as "a temple of the Holy Spirit" to Jesus, the temple incarnate.

Luther writes in the Large Catechism: "We always teach that the Sacraments and all outward things that God ordains and institutes should not be considered according to the coarse, outward mask, the way we look at a nutshell. But we respect them because God's Word is included in them" (Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2nd ed. [CPH, 2006], 425).

- Keeping in mind the words of Luther above and the proper Lutheran understanding of the means of "grace" (st. 5), how are Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper each a "dim revealing" of the Lord who visits your soul and yet also a clear epiphany of God's grace to you?

In Closing

Read again Luke 2:49. These are the first spoken words of Jesus to be recorded in St. Luke's Gospel. Begin to think of young people you know who need direction to seek Jesus in the Father's house.

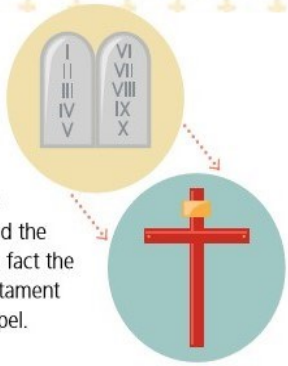
- Sing or read together LSB 410, "Within the Father's House."

Prayer

Gracious Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing their talents not for their own sakes but to Your glory and for the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your holy angels charge over them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (For young persons, LSB, 315).



KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Law and Gospel

Many people wrongly think that the Old Testament is the Law and the New Testament is the Gospel. In fact the Old Testament and the New Testament each contain both Law and Gospel.

What are the basics of the Law and the Gospel?

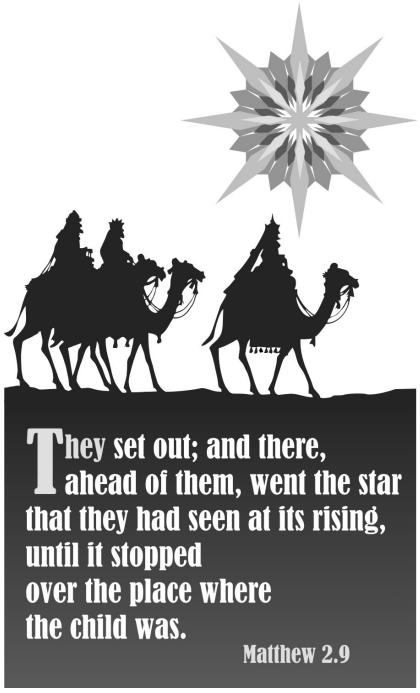
The Law teaches us God's will for how we live, namely the Ten Commandments. God's Law demands perfection, but it is impossible to be perfect. According to the Law, we are sinners, and are in big trouble with God. We need someone to save us. The Law shows us our sins.

The Gospel tells us what Jesus has done to save us from our sins. But the Gospel doesn't stop there. It tells us what Jesus continues to do for us because of His great love for us. The Gospel shows us our Savior, Jesus!

An easy way to remember all of this is to think of the following letters: S.O.S. The Law "shows our sins" while the Gospel "shows our Savior"!

Parents: Distinguishing between Law and Gospel is a life-long venture of study. Perhaps you or your child can take notes during the sermon. Following the Divine Service, discuss these notes, identifying the Law and the Gospel in the sermon.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2024

- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Feb 21, 28, Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 10 Voters Meeting
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 29 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Mar 31 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Mar 31 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Mar 31 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 12 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- June 09 Voters Meeting
- 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



And having come into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary. And falling down, they worshiped Him. And opening their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

Sermon Text and Titles for December

January 7	***"Does God's Work Seem Backwards at Times*** Isaiah 42:1-7 Psalm 85 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 St Mathew 3:13-17	St. Matthew 3:14
January 14	***"Jesus Bring Joy to You and Yours with Water"*** Amos 9:11-15 Psalm 111 Romans 12:6-16 St. John 2:1-11	St. John 2:1-11
January 21	***"Who So You See That Takes Your Fears Away"*** Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 St. Matthew 17-1-9	St. Matthew 17-1-9
January 28	***"What Determines What You Get?"*** Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95:1-9 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 St. Matthew 20:1-16	St. Matthew 20:1-16

(Continued from page 1)

wine we use when we set up for communion. To help with that we now have a cruet to hold extra unconsecrated wine in. this way, if we use all the wine that has been consecrated, we have more, readily available to be consecrated, so we do not need to go into the sacristy to get more. This helps the service to run more smoothly with fewer interruptions. This is just one example of what will be discussed at their meetings.

This past year we were able to pay down our mortgage, substantially and replace multiple furnace and air -conditioning units without being in a financial bind. This has been a blessing we have had for the last few years, a much different situation from years prior.

God has truly blessed us in many ways. It is exciting to look forward to this new year and see what He has in store for us as we move forward. If you have any ideas of how you, or we might serve God and neighbor in the future, please feel free to share that. Who (other than God Himself) know how we will be blessed and be a blessing, this year and in the future.

In Christ,

Pastor Nix