GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

The Parable of the Talents Matthew 25:14–30

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Why does God Bless His church? Those blessings can take many forms. He has blessed with thing, land, building, vehicles, equipment and so on. He has blessed with finances. He has blessed with people and their abilities. He has blessed with time. He has blessed us in so many ways, but why? Ultimately it is out of love for us, His creation. Our all-knowing God, even though He knew man would fall, created us out of love. He has provided everything we need for this world and the next. He has provided wisdom, knowledge and ability so that we are able to maintain life on this planet. For life in eternity, He has provided a Savior, His own Son. In times of need He provides others who are willing to help, Just as He did with Joseph in Egypt.

Now that we have all these blessings, what do we do with them? And why? To answer those questions, we look at what our Lord says. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God

(Continued on page 4)

CONTENTS

Flower Chart, Bell Choir & Adult Vocal Choir 2
Birthdays & Baptisms 2
Life Thoughts in the Church Year 2
LCMS Stewardship 3
Church Officers, Women of Christ, ... 3
Treasurer's Report 4
In Our Prayers 4
Thy Strong Word Study 5, 7
Kids in Worship 6
Upcoming 6
Sermon Texts and Titles 7
Calendars ..... *Insert*

BIRTHDAYS

February

02 Benjamin Fick
04 Philip Fick
05 Monica Andreasen
06 Luna Nix
07 Eloise Fick

BAPTISMS

February

01 Samuel Counts

FLOWER CHART

The 2025 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 Doctrine:
Christ-Centered,
Cross-Focused

Issues, Etc.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

Sacred Music

lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

February 2 ~ Purification of Mary & Presentation of Jesus, "All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well' (Psalm 139:14)." *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

February 9 ~ 5th Sunday after the Epiphany, "We may not be trained healers, but we have been trained through our own experiences and God's Word to bring comfort. Be brave, reach out, and know the Lord is by your side. Pray for His guidance in what you say and do so you will bring needed comfort. We have a message of hope!" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

February 16 ~ 6th Sunday after the Epiphany, "I love reminding them that the first diagnosis is, 'It's a baby,' and no other diagnosis ever negates diagnosis number one. The baby is inherently valuable and worthy of our love." *Dr. Robin Pierucci – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

February 23~ 7th Sunday after the Epiphany, "Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all of eternity." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



ADULT CHURCH CHOIR

The Adult Vocal Choir. Will meet Wednesdays at 7pm. We are always looking for singers. Please talk to Lynette if you have any questions



The adult choir would like to invite the children of the congregation to sing with them Sunday February 9. They will practice after church today and next Sunday. Please speak with Alia or Lynette if you have any questions.



BELL CHOIR

We will be practicing on Sunday mornings 8:45-9:15am, before Church. More ringers are welcome! 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 ~ February 2025

"Christ's Life, and Love, and Light"

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light. (*LSB* 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would "Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height."

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!
The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

> May thankfulness be days in service spent
> Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

2025 Church Officers

President: Luther Brack

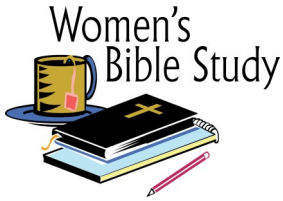
Secretary: Alan Kludt

Finance Secretary: Pastor Phil Andreasen,
Assistant: Dustin Preheim

Treasurer: Marty Johnson

Elders: Jay Holtz, Les Britson, & Dan Munson

Trustees: Andrew Brack, Dustin Preheim, & Carl Deardoff



Women of Christ Bible Study

Will meet Saturday, February 10th, at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying the Psalms. All the women of the congregation are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Johnson or Monica Andreasen.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
January 24, 2025

	11/2024	12/2024	01/2025
Deposits:	$ 18,439.62	$ 39,076.61	$ 13,432.36
Disbursements:	$ 14,769.15	$ 33,792.11	$ 23,746.58
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 15,856.62	$ 33,004.61	$ 10,860.36
Designated Funds:	$ 2,583.00	$ 6,072.00	$ 2,572.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 01/25			$ 47,444.39



IN OUR PRAYERS

Leslie and Vickie Britson at the death of their daughter.
Bonnie Ellis recovering from a hip replacement
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Mildred Corey, at home
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, at home

(Continued from page 1)

with all your heart, soul, and mind. He also said a second is like it you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Those statements along with the parable above give us good guidance.

How do we show our love for God and others? First, let me start by reminding you that we can in no way, shape or form earn or buy God's love or our salvation, those are free gifts. What we can do is take the blessings that God has given us and use them to show our appreciation and love for both God and neighbor.

It is easy to let ourselves slip into the mindset of the last servant. Maybe were afraid we might lose the blessings God has given us. We become unsure of our ability to use it right and we will have nothing left and God will be angry with us and punish us and not bless us anymore. Maybe we are afraid that those we share our blessings with will not use it the way "we see fit". What if something comes up, we may not be able to take care of that.

I understand that line of thinking, it's hard to trust others or even ourselves at times. When it comes to the LCMS, we have had four synod presidents since I was ordained. When it comes to the South Dakota District, we have had four district presidents since I was ordained. When it comes to Christ Lutheran, we have had four pastors since I was ordained. At each level, I must admit, there have been those I have appreciated more than others. There have even been some that I thought were going in the wrong direction.

Yet, each one was placed there buy God. For whatever reason God saw fit to put each of these sinful men into positions of leadership to shepherd His Church. Over the years, when I talked about stewardship and missions to district and synod quite often, I would get statements implying that we just can't afford it. I have also had people say that they don't like or trust the way synod or district will use our funds. Again, I understand those thoughts and feelings, but ultimately what is being said is we don't trust God to do what is right. Those people would not have been in charge had God not permitted them to be there.

The most recent voters' meeting was a highlight for me. In setting the budget for this year, we made a huge jump in our mission support. We are now budgeting 10% of our gifts from within Christ (not the moneys

(Continued on page 8)

Thy Strong Word LSB 578

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany (YEAR A; ONE-YEAR) | study by Larry A. Peters

Introduction

Light is so commonplace to us. We turn the switch on and darkness disappears. Sometimes it is hard to escape it. We even drive out to the country so that we can see the night sky unobscured by city lights. But it was not always so. Light and dark governed the lives of people. Today we are reminded how light and darkness still define us. This darkness is not just the absence of light, but is known as a broken world where problems outnumber solutions and sin cannot be broken by our invention or effort. We face the darkness of good we cannot do, of evil we cannot avoid, and of death that steals our lives away. We need a light that will shine in this darkness, a light the darkness cannot overcome, a light not of our own creation, but the Light that comes down from above (John 1:1–9).

- How does the imagery of darkness describe sin and its effects upon us?
- How does the imagery of light describe both who Jesus is and what He has come to accomplish?
- How does "light from above" illustrate both the limitations of our light down below and the divine intervention of God through His Son, our Light?

Exploring the Scriptures

"The Light Comes from Above" is the motto of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The hymn "Thy Strong Word" is based on this motto. The motto is drawn from Matt. 4:16, part of a whole section of the Gospel where light is a prominent theme. The lessons for Epiphany 5A are focused on the same theme of light.

- Read Ps. 112:4. What light shines in the darkness?
- Read Is. 58:8. What light breaks through like the dawn?
- Read Matt. 5:14–16. What light gives glory to our Father in heaven?

Light is one of the most prominent themes of Scripture. It is laid against the darkness in creation, and it stands in contrast to the darkness of sin and death. But light is not just an image. Jesus Christ is called the Light. The prologue to John's Gospel retells creation from the vantage point of the Light who is Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things came to be, and the Word who became flesh for us and our salvation.

While we have become masters of certain kinds of light (largely through electricity), we still associate darkness as a place where fear dwells, where mystery is hidden and even where danger lurks. Having light still connotes safety, security, and comfort.

- In 1 Cor. 2:1–16 we read of the secret or mystery long hidden and misunderstood, but now revealed to us through the Spirit. How do the light passages of the other lessons for the day relate? Paul says that "we have the mind of Christ"; how is this the result of the "light from above" that comes in Christ?
- God has chosen to reveal the light of Christ to the world through means. What are those means by which Christ's light continues to shine upon us? Could we be the means by which God's light shines in the world (Matt. 5:14–16)?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

In 1954 Martin H. Franzmann, a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was asked to write a text for the seminary to use as a processional hymn at commencement. The suggested tune is now known as "Ebenezer." He put into song the seminary's motto "Light from Above," writing four stanzas. But the hymn was not finished until 1959 after Franzmann had added two more. Its long and distinguished use by the seminary continues to the present day.

- Think how the words of this hymn speak to a seminary commencement where pastors are being sent out into the Church and the world. How might these words give voice to the hopes of future pastors? How might they give voice to the prayers and expectations of a Church waiting to receive these new laborers in God's harvest?

Text

Strong images are characteristic of Martin Franzmann's poetry. Compare this with another of his hymns, LSB 834, "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth."

"Thy Strong Word" unfolds like a story, each stanza building upon the other until it reaches its stunning close. Each stanza ends with a refrain that praises Him who sends us this light. What can we say in response to this gift of light? Only one word: "Alleluia" without

Continues on page 7

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is "making the sign of the cross"?

Making the sign of the cross means to draw an invisible cross on yourself at certain times during personal prayer, the Divine Service and other appropriate times during worship.

How do I make the sign of the cross?

Hold your thumb and two fingers together. 1 Touch your forehead, 2 then your tummy, 3 your left shoulder, 4 then your right shoulder 5 and finally your chest. Try it a few times and you'll get it. Before long, it will be easy to do!

Why is it a great thing to do?

Can you think of a time when your pastor first made the sign of the cross on you? At your Baptism, you received the sign of the cross on your forehead and on your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ! Making the sign of the cross is a great way to remember all that Jesus has done for you on the cross and given to you in and through Baptism!

Parents: Before or after the service, practice making the sign of the cross with your children. Remind them that we may make the sign of the cross at certain times during the service, for example, anytime you see a small red "cross" symbol, or pastor makes the sign of the cross on the congregation.

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In Just a couple of weeks, the opening service of the District convention will be happening here at Christ Lutheran.

The trusties are looking to set a day that we can clean up before then. Please be looking for opportunities to help.

GOOD NEWS!

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

(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025

- Feb 16-18 SD District LCMS Convention
- Mar 05 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 09 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 09 Voters' Meeting
- Mar 12, 19, 26 April 02, 09 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- April 18 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- April 20 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- April 20 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- April 20 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 11 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 29 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 08 Voters Meeting
- July 20-24 VBS
- Sept 07 Voters Meeting
- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 3 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 6 decorating Tree 10am & Caroling to shut-ins to follow
- Dec 07: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec 10, 17 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 15 Children's Christmas Service, 4pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



end!

"Thy Strong Word" cuts through the darkness like the big blade of a sword. Stanza 1 begins with Gen. 1:1–3, John 1:1–5, and God's act of creation. We give thanks for created light that shines through the sun, moon, and stars to order all our days and our seasons.

- Can you imagine life without cycles of light and dark to define the day, or seasons to define the year?

In stanza 2 the images change. The darkness is no longer the state before God's creative Word speaks, but the result of the fall. This darkness speaks of the world marred by sin and death. Once glorious creatures who crowned His work, humans found themselves cursed and unable to free themselves.

- Read 2 Cor. 4:6 and John 8:12. See how many passages you can add which similarly describe how Christ, the Light of the world, broke into the darkness of our earthly dwelling place, both breathing in our death and breathing out His life as our salvation.

Stanza 3 describes the result of Christ's coming into the world. He "bespeaks us righteous" until we shine with His very own holiness (Rom. 3:5–6). Our lives on earth "press toward glory," where our eternal hopes are fulfilled.

- St. Peter and St. Paul both speak of our Christian lives as the press toward glory. Do you see your own life as this onward and upward journey?

We know Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:22–25). He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Through the cross, God breaks into our hearts with His shining, conquering might.

- What do we expect to hear from the pulpit on Sunday morning except this message of the cross?

In the fifth stanza we plead for God's light to enable a fitting response from us. We beg for "lips to sing" His glory, throats to shout our hope, and mouths to speak His holy name. In this stanza the image of light is implicit.

- What is the glory, hope, and name of God we are to proclaim?

And then what is perhaps the finest doxological stanza ever explodes in a burst of light, praising God the Father (light-creator), the Son (the Light of Light begotten), and the Holy Spirit (light-revealer).

- How do we respond to God's Light? Who responds to that Light? How long does our praise last?

Making the Connection

The strong Word of God has worked salvation for us, calling us to live and speak the strong words of the Gospel. This is not pious sentiment, but the earnest prayer of all God's baptized servants.

- How has this life-transforming Word and Light changed who you are? What you do? Your story?

In Closing

The Word of God is strong and powerful. It brings Christ's light and life wherever it is spoken or sung.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 578, "Thy Strong Word."

Prayer

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (For the Church, LSB, p. 305).



Sermon Text and Titles for February

February 2ns	***"When They Came for Their Purification"***	**St. Luke 2:22**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"In His Temple Now Behold Him"***	**LSB 519**
	1 Samuel 1:21-28	
	Psalm 84	
	Hebrews 2:14-18	
	St Luke 2: 22-40	
February 9th	***"On One Occasion"***	**St. Luke 5:1**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"***	**LSB 398**
	Isaiah 6:1-68 (9-13)	
	Psalm 138	
	1 Corinthians 14:12b-20	
	St Luke 5:1-11	
February 16th	***"Power Came Out of Him"***	**St. Luke 6:19**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"***	**LSB 394**
	Jeramiah 17:5-6	
	Psalm 1	
	1 Corinthians 15:1-20	
	St Luke 6:17-26	
February 23th	***"As He Was Praying"***	**St. Luke 6:37**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker"***	**LSB 820**
	Genesis 45:3-15	
	Psalm 103:1-13	
	1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42	
	St Luke 6:27-38	

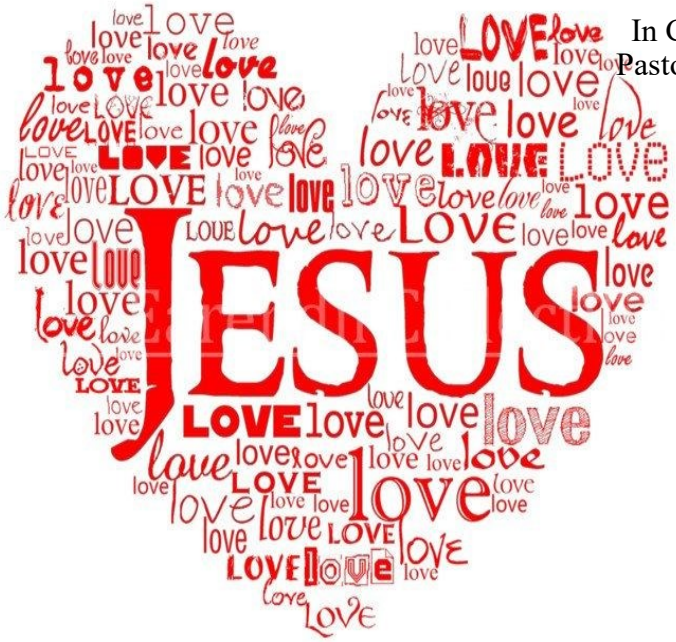
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received from Trinity or the District) for missions. This is from a low of 0%, I believe. I would like to thank the voters, the congregation and above all, God for making this turn around.

My prayer is that as the members of Christ see this change of focus, you might evaluate how God has blessed you and how you might thank Him. I would also hope this will encourage the next generation to see the importance of supporting their church, both at home and away.

'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

In Christ,
Pastor Nix



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MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300
PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX