GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Something new

We will be including a new section in the newsletter. This will be to either be to welcome our new members or reintroduce those who have been here for a while. Please take the time to meet those introduced in this section.

WELCOME

We wish to welcome Bryan and Kandie Nelson to Christ Lutheran Church. They come to us from Grace Lutheran Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Bryan works for the FFA as an airport Electronic Technician and Kandie has been taking time to get them settled and enjoy their family. They have four grown children and four grandchildren. Please make yourselves known to them.



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VOTERS MEETING — MARCH 10, 2024 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

March

01 Lula Arlton
08 Tatum Robison
13 Luther Brack
18 Lynda Nix
21 Tamerha Miller
25 Cynthia Schilf
26 Jodie Holtz
27 Martin Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

March

13 Andrew & Jenny Brack

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

Sacred Music 24/7

lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

March 2 "God sent His Son to save us, not because we asked, but because He loves us. God wants you to call on Him, not because He needs the information, and not just because He wants to rescue you from distress. He wants to rescue you for a new life, for a life of trusting that He wants to hear from you, of living with His Word inside you, a life responding with God's love to others in their distress, even before they call." *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 9 "Brothers and sisters, in Christ you are God's masterpiece. You were created for a purpose. You are the hands and feet of Christ demonstrating His love in a world that desperately needs it. Live out that purpose in the strength that comes from Him and wait joyfully for the day where we get to see His finished product." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 16 On St. Joseph: "Though Mary's husband did not beget Jesus from his own body, he did father him in the fashion of a foster, adoptive, or step-parent. For this reason, he has received the title of Guardian of Our Lord. His service to God and family not only figures prominently in the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also exemplifies the holy vocation of fatherhood and testifies to the sanctity of marriage, parenting, adoption, and every human life." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 23 "Think of how important we as human beings must be in the eyes of God, if He—as the almighty creator and Lord of the entire universe—was willing to take on human flesh and become one of us. God loves the human race so much He decided to become our brother." *Thomas P. Nass, CELC President – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 30 "Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability—nor any lack thereof—improves or impairs anyone's worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – March 2025

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as "the most forgotten words in the Scriptures." They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need is as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart is pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex.

If you have any questions about providing flowers, please speak with Cheri Zehendner.



Wednesday Matins Service

Wednesday Mornings at 9 am with the Wednesday bible study to follow the service, approximately at 9:30 am.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
March 6th, 2025

	01/2025	02/2025	03/2025
Deposits:	$ 14,542.36	$ 47,568.69	$ 12,147.66
Disbursements:	$ 32,401.33	$ 14,567.92	$ 2,868.00
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 11,919.36	$ 44,056.69	$ $11,902.25
Designated Funds:	$ 2,623.00	$ 3,512.00	$ 245.41
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 03/06			$ 43,104.34

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES

03/02/25 As He was Praying	Luke 9:29		
	O wondrous type! O vision fair		413
03/05/25 Beware	Matthew 6:1		
	From depths of woe I cry to Thee		607
03/09/25 It is Written	Luke 4:4		
	A mighty fortress is our God		657
03/12/25 He was numbered among the transgressors	Luke 22:14, 24-38		
	Jesus, I will ponder now		440
03/16/25Herod wants to kill You	Luke 13:31		
	Lord, Thee I love with all my heart		708
03/19/25 The real Battle	Luke 22:39-62	Go to dark Gethsemane	436
03/23/25 Likewise will Perish	Luke 13:3,5	May God bestow on us His grace	824
03/30/25 While He was still a Long way off	Luke 15:20	God loved the world so that He gave	571

2025 CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Luther Brack

Elders: Jay Holtz
Les Britson
Dan Monson

Secretary: Alan Kludt

Financial Secretary: Rev. Phillip Andreasen

Asst. to the Financial Secretary: Dustin Preheim

Treasurer: Marty Johnson

Trustees: Carl Deardoff
Andrew Brack
Dustin Preheim

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Lutheran Service Book 823/824 | study by Thomas E. Lock

Introduction

When Martin Luther (1483–1546) wrote in 1522, "recently many islands and lands have been discovered, to which the grace [of God] has not appeared for these 1500 years," he wrote of the discovery of the Americas (AE 16:135n 7). The next year Luther wrote our hymn for today, "May God Bestow on Us His Grace," a hymn of thanksgiving for the rich blessings of God. This paraphrase of Psalm 67 is also a hymn for missions; in fact, it was the first mission hymn of the Reformation.

All Christians, including those living in these discovered islands and lands of the Americas, can give thanks that they have been blessed with the bestowal of the Gospel, which converts and saves sinners.

- Of what types of grace was Luther writing in this hymn? Why was it important to ask for such bestowal of grace? Why is it important for you to ask for grace from God?
- How is the bestowal of God's grace linked with Christian missions? How has — does — God's grace come to these discovered islands and lands?

Exploring the Scriptures

Our hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 67. Read Ps. 67:1–2.

- For what does the psalmist ask in verse 1? This verse reminds you of what part of the Divine Service?
- In verse 2, what was to be made known among all nations of the earth?

Read the Holy Gospel for Sexagesima (Luke 8:4–15), the parable of the sower. This sower spreads his seed on differing soils in hope that all the soils will bear fruitfully from his seed.

- In verses 5–8 Jesus described the results from the sowing of the seed on the differing soils. What were the four differing types of soil upon which the seed was sown? What happened to the seed on each type of soil?
- The disciples asked for an explanation of this parable. Jesus' reply is given in verses 10–15. What is the seed that was sown? How do the differing soils describe hearers of the Gospel?
- The sower in this passage demonstrates recklessness by tossing the seed not only onto soil likely to bear abundantly, but also onto soils where he knows it will not come to fruition. Who is the sower? Why is He so reckless? Whose fault is it if the seed of the Gospel does not result ultimately in salvation — God's, or the hearer's?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

After Luther was declared an outlaw by Emperor Charles V in 1521 (meaning anyone could kill Luther without fear of punishment), Elector Frederick the Wise spirited Luther away to Wartburg Castle near Eisenach. Luther returned to Wittenberg in 1522 to restore order within the congregations. He also soon began writing hymns for the people to sing. Today's hymn is one of the first in that outpouring of new hymns in German.

Continues on page 7

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Another great big word of love

In the Bible we hear the wonderful Good News of Jesus and all He has done for us. We hear about how He has saved us from our sins through His perfect life, death and resurrection. What you may not know is how the Holy Spirit fits into the picture. "Sanctification" (pronounced sank-ti-fi-KAY-shun) is the word used by the Church to describe this.

What does "sanctification" mean?

"Sanctification" comes from the root word "sanctify" which means "to make holy." The Holy Spirit sanctifies, or makes us holy, by giving us faith in Jesus and enabling us to do good works. All of this He does for us through the wonderful Gospel, and the Gospel can be found all wrapped up in the Word and Sacraments. Wow! The Holy Spirit is really at work in our lives!

Parents: Our Savior paid the price, and the Holy Spirit delivers the gifts! What a great combination and promise. Before or after the service, visit the baptismal font with your children and remind them that this is where the work of sanctification began. In Baptism we are washed clean and made holy before God!

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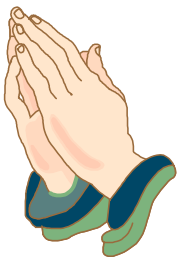
UPCOMING

2025

- Mar 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 9 Voters Meeting
- April 5 Ladies' brunch, 10am
- 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
- April 20 Women's Brunch, TBA
- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 11 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- June 08 Voters Meeting
- July 20-24 VBS
- Sept 14 Voters Meeting
- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 3, 10, 17 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 14: 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



IN OUR PRAYERS

The family of Lisa Johnson, at her death
Bonnie Ellis recovering from a hip replacement
Mildred Corey, at home
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, in the hospital



The 2025Flower 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.



EASTER LILIES

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for donating Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. The cost of the lilies are $12 each. Please sign up if you are interested .

(Continued from page 5)

- Imagine that the government was seeking your death. You would most likely try to hide out somewhere. Is there any reason why you would return to your hometown? What would motivate that return? When you returned, would you then start writing things for public consumption? Why or why not?

When Luther first reformed the Divine Service in 1523, he still retained the Latin, while removing those portions of the service that smacked of self- righteousness. Luther emphasized the work of God in the service. For the Benediction, Luther recommended that either the Aaronic Blessing (Num. 6:24–26) or Ps. 67:6–7 be used. The Aaronic Blessing was given by the Lord so that His name would be put upon the children of Israel (v. 27). On the other hand, Ps. 67:6–7 refers to God blessing the nations.

- What are the similarities and differences between the Aaronic Blessing and Ps. 67:6–7? What are their strengths and weaknesses at the close of the service? Why do you think Lutherans have retained the Aaronic Benediction?

Text

We have already discovered the recklessness of the sower, the one who casts the seed upon all nations and all people. In this first mission hymn of the Reformation, there are many references to the nations of the world.

- How many references to these nations can you find in this hymn?

Luther's understanding of right worship can be summed up with the German word, Gottesdienst, that is, Divine Service. In this Divine Service God first serves man, and then Christians return thanks and praise to God.

- Look at the first stanza. Which aspect of Divine Service is being described? How is God serving the people of the earth? What is the goal of that service?

Stanza 2 is the paraphrase of Ps. 67:3–4. The emphasis of the hymn text and of these verses from Psalm 67 is about praising God (the second aspect of Divine Service). The second half of stanza 2 includes these lines:

For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;

Thy people's pasture is Thy Word Their
souls to feed and nourish,

In righteous paths to keep them.

- Why should the people praise God?
- Where has the judgment of the earth and its sinfulness taken place in Christ? When will the final judging of the earth and its sinfulness take place? If sin will not flourish, how was it removed and how will it be removed?
- What is the connection between Psalm 23 and the last three lines of this stanza?

Stanza 3 is a paraphrase of Ps. 67:5–7. It also includes a reference to the parable of the sower: "The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth, / Thy Word is rich in blessing."

- Read a portion of the Old Testament

(Continued on page 8)

Announcements

VOTERS MEETING — MARCH 9, 2025 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE



Lenten Suppers & Services

During Lenten season on Wednesdays, Suppers beginning at 5:30 pm. Service begins at 7pm. Please check the sign-up sheet to see if you would like to donate or help with the meals. The schedule is listed there. The meal for week 1 will be pizza, week 2 will be pulled pork, week 3 will be soup, week 4 will be meatloaf, and week 5 will be lasagna. There is a need for other components (drinks, salad, dessert, etc.) that can be brought. There is also a need for set up and clean up.

(Continued from page 7)

Reading for Sexagesima, Is. 55:10–13. How are seed and the Word linked? What is the connection between this reading and the parable of the sower? Who converts the people? To whom, then, do the people give thanks?

Making the Connection

Read Rom. 1:8. What does St. Paul say about the faith of the Roman Christians? How far had the knowledge of their faith gone even in the time of the apostles? (If time allows, see also Col. 1:3–6 and 1 Thess. 1:8.)

- If the Gospel has already gone to all the nations, does that mean that we no longer need to send out missionaries or bear witness of Christ to those who do not believe in Him?
- For what blessings of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) do you give thanks? How can you show this thankfulness to God and to other people, both near and far away?

In Closing

The Holy Spirit distributes the rich blessings of Christ in His Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and Holy Communion in the Church, even as we confess in the explanation to the Third Article of the Creed from the Small Catechism (LSB, 323).

- Read this explanation aloud together.
- Sing or read aloud LSB 823 or 824. LSB 823/824

Prayer

Almighty God, in Your kindness You cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may rejoice in the gift of Your unending love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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