NOVEMBER 2022

GOOD NEWS from Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church
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Sioux Falls, SD 57110
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Web: christsiouxfalls.org
Member: Issues, Etc., 300
Pastor: Matthew Nix

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

Sacred Music 24/7
LPR
lutheranpublicradio.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

God's Lover Moves His People

Have you ever had to move, …. when you really didn't want to? Perhaps it was the only place you have ever lived. You could not remember a time when everything was perfect. No positive feelings were connected with the thought of moving. Maybe it was a place where your friendships seemed to have lasted for hundreds of years and now you were leaving all that behind. It could have been that place you had always dreamed of owning a home, but because of economic and climate changes you had to move to be able to take care of your family. Maybe it was that homestead that the family had owned and lived on for years and all of a sudden someone claims it and you had to relocate to a place you could never have dreamed of. What happens if you have that perfect home but now your work forces you to relocate to a much lesser area? Or one of my wife's favorites, your pregnant, very close to your due date and your husband's vicarage is done so you must pack move back to St. Louis, unpack, all the while hoping the baby waits for a safe time.

This advent we are going to look at times when God moved His people out of love. When these moves happened, they seemed all but good and positive, but ultimately they had an amazing outcome.

Join us as we discuss these moves and see how God uses those things we view as negative at the time as blessings in the end. This year you will have two opportunities to join us for our Advent series. We will have our regular service on Wednesday evening at 7:00PM. We also have our matins service Wednesday mornings at 9:00AM. If you prefer not getting out at night join us for the matin's service. If you prefer not getting out early join us in the evening. Either way, we look forward to seeing you as we look at these moving stories of God's love.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

Voters Meeting, Dec 11, 2022 after Divine Service

Our Prayer for a Blessed November Anniversary to:

09 Erik & Lula Arlton

Our Prayer for a Blessed November Birthday to:

01 Helen Kriz
07 Michaela Nix
10 Lexie Johnson
13 Mildred Corey
18 Duane Ellis
19 Ian Nix
21 Erik Arlton

Hymn of the Month
Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying (LSB 516)

Wake, Awake, for Night, written by the Lutheran Pastor Phillip Nicolai (1599), is referred to as the King of the Chorales. Outside of its outstanding confession concerning the coming Christ, it includes some beautiful hidden gems. Each verse is written in the shape of a chalice, alluding to the Christ and the host of heaven we now participate with in the Lord's Supper. The German original contains three initials at the beginning of each stanza: 1–W, 2–Z, 3–G. These belonged to Count Wilhelm Ernst, a student of Nicolai's who died a year before.

The specific occasion for writing the hymn was a horrible plague that claimed thousands, with as many as thirty people being buried each day. Their committals were said to be in the view of Nicolai's from his office window. Thus it serves as a comfort to the dying and their families, causing it to be appropriately heard not only at weddings but also funerals.

It is based primarily on Matthew 25, the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Earlier translations both in TLH and LW missed the reference to the Lord's Supper in verse two (Das Abendmahl); LSB has rightly restored it. The translation makes the text seen to its hearers and leads the singer from the beckoning of the Word of God to the Supper to full participation with Christ and all the saints in heaven.

— Rev. Adrian N. Sherrill, Trinity Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

If you are in need of a ride to and from the church building, please contact Pr. Nix or one of the elders: Tom Clauson, Paul Schilf, or Kirk Meyer.

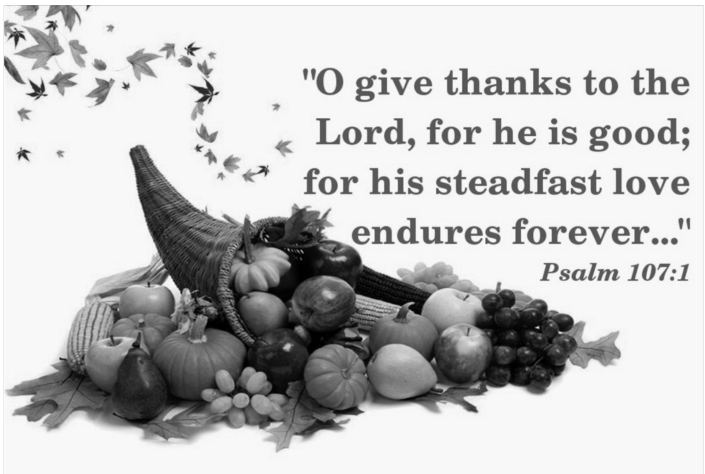
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

November 6 - *All Saints Day* "Tune out the NOISE of the lies, bury yourself deep into God's Word of truth, and go forth with the life-affirming message, dressed in Christ's priestly armor and standing as sentry in prayer!" *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 13 – *22nd Sunday after Trinity* "Respect for God's chain of authority holds true with the police, legislators, governors, presidents, and judges who have been placed over me. Some I may have chosen willingly, while others I may have voted against or had no say in. Still, we believe God has given them their authority. I may feel a responsibility to oppose their plans or how they perceive and execute justice, but even then, I owe them respect and honor." *Pastor Dan Guagenti, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shelbyville, Kentucky – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 20 – *Last Sunday of Church Year* "In the Christian calendar, secular time is swallowed up in Sacred Time, which is a foreshadowing of the eternal Day of the Lord, when all that we have foolishly sought after and worried about will vanish as will the night vanish on the dawning of the Lord's Day. Rejoice, the Lord is near." *James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 27 – *First Sunday in Advent* "These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand." *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

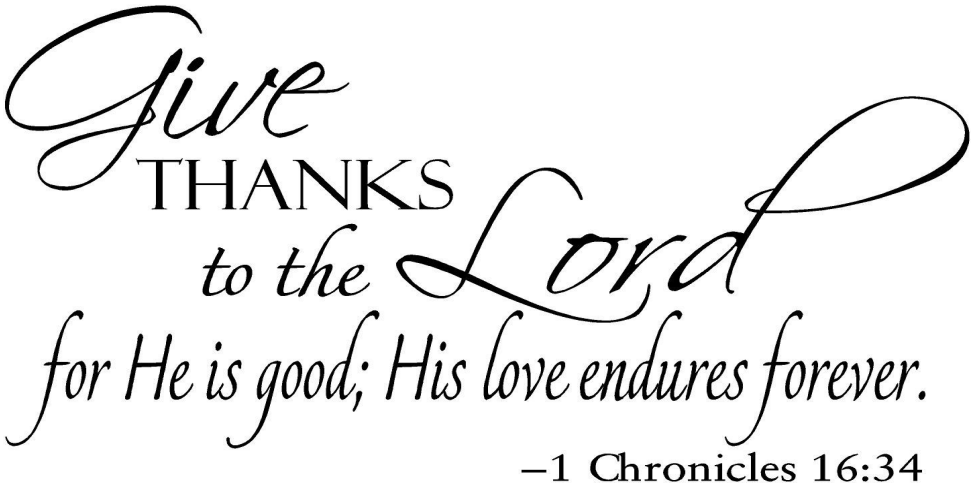
So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It's the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



IN OUR PRAYERS

Susan Powell, at home
Mildred Corey, at home
Helen Kriz, Bethany Lutheran Home, Brandon
Lisa Johnson, health issues
Mildred Peters at Lyon Specialty Center in Rock Rapids, IA
Leslie & Constance Bartlett at home
Elva Clauson at home



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
October 28, 2022

	08/2022	09/2022	10/2022
Deposits:	$ 17,561.23	$ 6,861.87	$ 17,296.65
Disbursements:	$ 17,311.99	$-11,643.03	$ 11,487.88
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 17,503.23	$ 6,789.87	$ 17,025.65
Designated Funds:	$ 58.00	$ 72.00	$ 271.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,096.00	$ 12,876.80	$ 16,096.00
Mortgage Balance as of 10/28			$239,671.65

CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

Lutheran Service Book 611 | study by Aaron A. Koch

Introduction

Most of us like to attain titles that show we're in charge, that we're the one taking the lead and the responsibility for getting a certain job done. Managing editor, chief engineer, head chef — there's honor in having titles such as those. They show that we've risen to the top in whatever it is that we're doing.

But in this week's Hymn of the Day, we begin by singing of a title that most people wouldn't seek, and that we may hesitate to claim for ourselves: chief of sinners. While this is not something we would want to include on a resume, it is something that is central to our Christian confession of faith. For only those who know themselves to be wretched sinners will trust completely and wholeheartedly in Christ as their Savior. He even rescues the worst of sinners from the judgment that we deserve by His all-atoning death on the cross.

❙ If someone resists applying the term "chief of sinners" as a potential title for himself or herself, might that be a sign of a spiritual problem? Why or why not?

❙ How is confessing one's sins connected to confessing faith in Christ?

Exploring the Scriptures

The theme of today's hymn is based on Paul's words to Timothy. Read 1 Tim. 1:12–17.

❙ Paul said that he was formerly a "blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent." In what specific ways had he blasphemed God and persecuted Christ's Church? See Acts 7:59–8:3; 9:1–2.

❙ Why would Saul/Paul have thought at first that what he was doing was good and righteous? ❙ We could probably think of certain crimes today that seem even more heinous than what Paul did. What was it, then, about his deeds that caused him to categorize himself as the chief and foremost of sinners?

❙ In what ways can we identify with Paul's great confession of sin?

❙ Why did Christ Jesus come into the world? How is that simple truth an incredibly deep and precious one for us?

❙ What was one of the reasons that Paul received mercy?

❙ The argument is from the greater to the lesser: If the "foremost" sinner can be forgiven, then can "lesser" sinners like us be forgiven? Who is glorified by this?

❙ According to the Gospel for Trinity 22, Matt. 18:21–35, what does God's completely undeserved mercy

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and forgiveness toward us mean for our relationships toward others?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

This hymn text was written by William McComb (1793– 1873) in the 1860s. Two slight changes were made to his original words for the sake of doctrinal clarity. In stanza 1, McComb originally used the past tense "Lived." But now the hymn reads that Jesus "Lives that I might never die," to make clear that our Lord is still alive to give us His life. And in the third stanza, "Jesus only can impart" was changed to the current "Only Jesus can impart," to make clear that the power of our Savior isn't limited.

❙ The above changes were fairly minor; some may say they weren't really necessary. Why, however, is it spiritually important for there to be precision in the language of hymns and in doctrinal statements in general?

Text

The primary focus of this hymn is not on the sinner or the ranking of sinners — as if that were necessary or even possible. It's on the saving work of Christ Jesus. The first stanza weaves together several scriptural thoughts to help us meditate on this theme.

❙ Read Matt. 27:50–52. The hymn sings, "Died that I might live on high." How does Jesus' death bring us life? See also 1 John 1:7.

❙ Read John 15:4–5. "As the branch is to the vine, / I am His, and He is mine." How does the relationship of a branch to a vine illustrate our relationship to

Christ? Stanza 2 sings in praise of Jesus' love and how that love is everything for the Christian. "Oh, the height of Jesus' love … ! / Love that found me — wondrous thought!" Read Ps. 103:11, 17 and 1 John 4:10.

❙ Did Paul (Saul) choose Christ, or vice versa? See Acts 9:1–16; also see John 15:16.

❙ Who initiates the relationship between God and man? Who finds whom? Who "gives His life" to whom? Who receives the glory for the fact that we're believers?

Stanza 3 emphasizes that forgiveness and salvation come through Christ alone. "Only Jesus can impart" all of the things that are mentioned here. Read Rom. 5:1; John 14:6.

❙ How is the forgiveness Jesus brings like a balm or medicine to heal a sin-wounded heart?

❙ Why is Jesus the only way to the Father and the only one who can impart all of these gifts?

❙ Who was Enoch? See Heb. 11:5–6; Gen. 5:18–30. What does it mean to "walk with God"?

Stanza 4 again weaves several scriptural images to show how the life of Christ and His people are intimately tied together.

❙ How is it that "All my wants to Him are known"? See John 21:17; Matt. 6:8. Should we still pray anyway?

❙ How is it that "All my sorrows are His own"? See Is. 53:4.

❙ How is your life "hidden," "Safe with Him from earthly strife"? See Col. 3:3–4; also 3:11.

Stanza 5 moves the hymn from being a meditation on Christ's redemptive work to a prayer. Read Matt. 7:13–14.

❙ "When my wayward heart would stray." What sort of things tempt us off the narrow way? Why is it that the path of eternal life is a narrow way?

❙ Why especially do we need God's grace in the face of death? What certainty can we draw from Heb. 4:15 –16?

Making the Connection

Stanza 2 speaks in a very personal way about the "Love that found me." God's love may have found you at a very young age — even as an infant — or when you were older.

❙ In what way, specifically and concretely, did Jesus' love find you and save you, even "when [you] sought Him not"? Be sure to refer to the external means or instruments that He used.

According to stanza 5, our Savior affords help to us "By [His] Spirit and [His] Word."

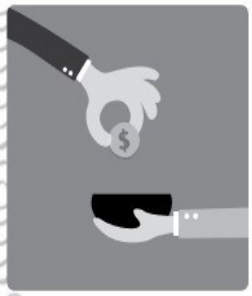
❙ What specific things in the Church or in Divine Service might that be a reference to?

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the "Offering"?

This is the time during the service when we offer gifts to God with the rest of the congregation. The Offering is concluded with the *Offertory*, which is the song that we sing while these gifts are being presented at the altar.



Why do we give some of our money to the Church?

The money that we give goes to help support all the work of the church. If you think about it, all that we have is a gift from God. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts. As Christians, we give to God in response to what He has given to us: life; food; family; and, most important, our Savior Jesus! We don't give because we have to, we give because, in faith, we want to!

Parents: Before the Divine Service, remind your children what giving to the Offering means. Help them to think of all the things that they have and how they are really gifts from God. Encourage them to set aside a certain amount of their own money each week to give.

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Church Fall Outdoor Clean Up

We are asking for members to please come and help us with outdoor cleanup of the church on Saturday, November 5th from 9am—noon. We will be pruning the plants and picking up the leaves. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Trustees: Andrew Brack, Steve Counts or Karl Deardoff or Pastor Nix. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022

- Nov 06 Daylight Savings Time Ends, 2 am
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 07, 14, 21 Advent Services 7 pm
- Dec 03 Decorate Church, TBD
- Dec 03 Caroling, TBD
- Dec 11: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- TBD 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

2023

- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm
- Feb 22 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 12 Voters Meeting
- Apr 06 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Apr 07 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Apr 09 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Apr 09 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Apr 09 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 14 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 18 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 11 Voters Meeting
- July 23-27 VBS
- Sept 10 Voters Meeting
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Nov 29 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 06, 13, 20 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 20 Children's Christmas Service 7pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service

In Closing

We may not like to apply the title "sinner" to ourselves, much less "chief of sinners." But the truth is that such are the only ones our Lord deals with. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). And so in humble repentance we confess that this is the truth about ourselves. And in confident faith we trust in Him, whose redeeming love has given us the new title of "children of God," purely out of His abundant grace and mercy. "To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Tim. 1:17).

❙ Sing or read aloud together LSB 611.

Prayer

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Conversion of St. Paul).

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

2023 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCES

AND IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, OUR PREACHING IS USELESS AND SO IS YOUR FAITH. (1 CORINTHIANS



JULY 18-21, 2023

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

CARBONDALE, IL

JULY 25-28, 2023

TRINITY UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO, TX

Doubt. We confess to being poor miserable sinners every week but it can be hard to confess to wondering if there's even a God who exists to listen at all. Doubt crept into the apostles' hearts but we're afraid of what it means if we find it in our own. The devil sets a trap to leave you feeling alone, cut off from the christians around you who don't seem to struggle like you. What if it's not real?

Jesus isn't just some guy. He died and then didn't stay dead. That's our hope. You can even prove it. God gives us verifiable scripture that can be traced and upheld through history. You just can't by your own reason or strength believe it. So He speaks to us, doubting hearts and minds that can't quite help but question.

The same thing is the core of our hope and our worldview: the resurrection. Because it's real. The gospel proclaimed by the Spirit to our hearts is something God dares us to question with our minds. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, we are above all to be pitied. So test it. There is evidence. This is the defense of the faith that defends you. It's called "apologetics." Your hope is rooted in a historic event, not in your own reason and strength.

O Ye of little faith, why did you doubt? It isn't a challenge. It's a call to be the one Jesus pulls from sinking waters. Like Peter. This is where you start to find your identity and belonging. You're not cut off from Christ in this doubt…If you must doubt, doubt boldly.

In the summer of 2023 we'll tackle a faith that isn't a fairytale, and we'll prove it. Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

If you have youth confirmation age and above and are interested in attending Higher things please contact pastor.

If you are interested in chaperoning please contact pastor.