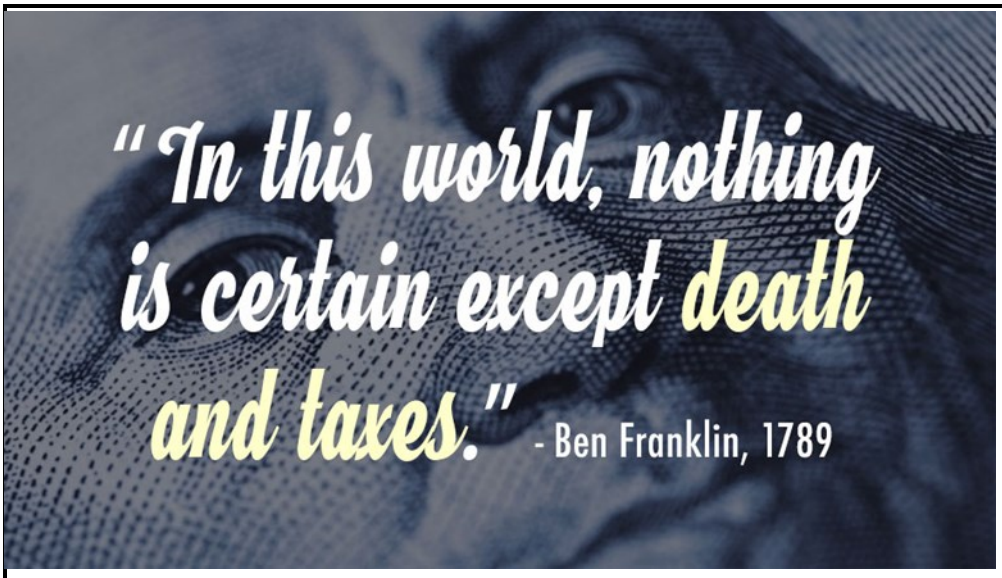
GOOD NEWS
FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2022

FROM THE PASTOR



It seems more and more these days there is very little that is certain in this world. Things you probably would never have questioned a few years ago today seem unbelievable. The above quotation credited to Ben Franklin is one most of us know, and with Good Friday landing on April 15th, it got me to thinking. Here we have the tax deadline landing on the date we remember the most significant death this world has and will ever know. Though the world may not have many things that are certain, we Christians do. The theme for this year's Lenten series is "what is certain in your life?". Each Wednesday, starting with Ash Wednesday, and Holy week and Easter. we will look at things that are certain.

It is Certain that God see you.
It is Certain that Satan temps to destroy.
It is Certain that we know that man will try to save himself.
It is Certain that man will grumble against God.
It is Certain that Man will also deny his sin.
It is Certain that The Devil most certainly knows Jesus.
It is Certain that There are things we do not understand yet.
It is Certain that death and taxes are certain.
It is Certain that Even if we do not recognize Jesus, He recognizes us.
It is Certain that Jesus has removed what we cannot.

It is good that we have a God we can be certain of. Join us as we look at these certain things in our lives.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

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VOTERS MEETING — MARCH 27, 2021 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

March

01 Lula Arlton
08 Dale Engelmann
12 Leslie Bartlett
13 Luther Brack
17 Jordan Jones
18 Lynda Nix
19 Colton Wehking
25 Cynthia Schilf
26 Jodie Holtz
27 Martin Johnson
29 Jackie Keiner-Jones

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 6, First Sunday in Lent ~ "Just as God personally created your body, so too He continually designs His body, the Church, bringing together people from all walks of life, all nations, and all abilities, in service to the world. And while it may be true that the world does not appreciate the gifts you have to offer, the body of Christ most certainly needs you." *Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 13, Second Sunday in Lent ~ "Paul kept his eyes on Christ who came and faced all the same heartaches, burdens, and sadness we do, and came through victorious. He shouldered our guilt and punishment on the cross and died that we might have life to the full." *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 20, Third Sunday in Lent ~ "The Word became flesh and God made Himself man as an embryo. Jesus took the lowliest form of a servant to leave no human life out." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 27, Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ "I cannot ponder every day the full life of Christ in the Gospels. But I can during the year on various days celebrate and ponder His Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Triumphal Entry, Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Arrest, Trial, Passion, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Great Commission, or Ascension." *James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13, 2022

WHEN WE LISTEN TO THE SERMON, WE ASK THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS:

1) How often is Jesus mentioned? [Keep a tally.]
2) If Jesus is mentioned, is He the subject of the verbs? [Is Jesus performing the verbs?]
3) What are those verbs? (The Gospel isn't Jesus your example, educator, life-coach [encourage-or] or therapist. The Gospel is Jesus, your crucified and risen Savior from sin and death.)

- A Listener's Guide to the Pulpit (Updated) by Pr. Todd Wilken [https://bit.ly/2ZCjeCx]

If you are in need of a ride to and from the church building, please contact Pastor Nix or one of the elders.

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – March 2022

God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us … us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (*Luther's Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
February 25, 2022

	12/2021	01/2022	02/2022
Deposits:	$ 30,877.43	$ 22,453.57	$ 13,931.36
Disbursements:	$ 38,750.13	$ 24,329.82	$ 8,586.05
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 27,650.43	$ 22,430.57	$ 13,926.36
Designated Funds:	$ 3,227.00	$ 23.00	$ 5.00
Interest:	$ 0.86	$ 0.67	
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 12,502.88	$ 16,096.00	$ 12,502.88
Mortgage Balance as of 02/28/2022			$252,928.19

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation – LSB 659

Jesus Christ is the Lord Who has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). He is the One Who defeats Satan, the accuser, and helps His saints (Rev. 12:10). Though we are surrounded by foes with unfurled banners, yet the Lord's banner of love waves over His Church (Song of Sol. 2:4) and preserves Her. Though darkness surrounds the believers, His Light of the Gospel shines through the darkness. Though the Church is assaulted by devils, still the Lord's armor ("panoply"; Eph. 6) defends Her. This hymn is unusual in that the second stanza of the text is sturdy and loud; the text then tapers off from billows to prayers for peace. He brings His peace to our hearts, to the Church, to the world, and in fullness in heaven. —Kantor Thomas E. Lock, *Logia On-line*

FLOWER CHART

The 2022 Flower Chart is pinned to the bulletin board in the Narthex.

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

GOOD NEWS!

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

(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

Liturgy Lessons

Introduction

What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article by the former Commission on Worship for the Reporter Insert entitled "Taking a Tour of Heaven." Pastor Nix along with the Elders of Christ Lutheran have decided to present to the congregation parts of the liturgy over the next 15 weeks, taking a break for Palm Sunday and Easter.

The story is told of how Christianity was introduced to Russia. More than 1,000 years ago Grand Duke Vladimir of Kiev was interested in selecting an appropriate religion for his new nation. His emissaries investigated the main religions of the day, including Roman Catholicism and Islam. But it was only after visiting the chief site of the Orthodox Church in Constantinople that they found what they were looking for. In their report to their duke, the emissaries noted that in Orthodox worship there was such solemn splendor that they had a hard time knowing whether they were in heaven or on earth.

Worship is like that: one foot in heaven with the other here on earth. What brings heaven into our earthly worship is not dependent on the elaborateness of the service or the sincerity of our devotion. Rather, it is because of the One who is present in our worship that we experience heaven on earth.

If worship is "heaven on earth," then it stands to reason that what we do and say in worship should in some sense give us a foretaste of that great feast to come. During the Divine Service we will see how the ancient texts of the liturgy give us that glimpse of heaven and, more importantly, how they deliver to us, here and now, the eternal benefits of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Part 1: The Invocation

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." How many times have we heard those words? And yet, they testify with renewed freshness to our identity as children of God who've been baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Wouldn't it be something if God's faithful would remember that every time they heard the words of the Invocation, perhaps tracing the sign of the cross as a visible reminder?

St. Paul beautifully captures the eternal significance of our baptism into Christ when he writes to the Galatians that "as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

We are clothed with his righteousness. Unlike the man in the parable of the wedding feast who had no wedding garment, when we stand before our Judge on the Last Day, we will be clothed and covered, robed in the purity of Christ.

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Already now, in this heaven on earth we call worship, we stand with boldness before the Triune God who has claimed us and named us.



New Church Directory Coming Soon

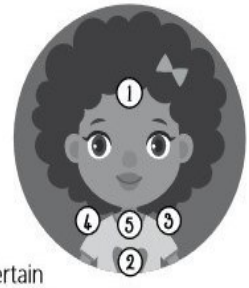
Its been a while since our last Church Directory. Members have changed since then, to help with getting to know others better we are planning to put together a new directory. We will have family pictures taken in April and May. Please watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex to sign up for a family photo time that works for your family. We would also like to have you update your contact information at that time as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Nix.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

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. ❶ Touch your forehead, ❷ then your tummy, ❸ your left shoulder, ❹ then your right shoulder ❺ 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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UPCOMING EVENTS

2022

- Mar 02 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 09, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 27 Voters Meeting
- Apr 14 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Apr 15 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Apr 17 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Apr 17 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Apr 17 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 8 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 26 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 12 Voters Meeting
- July 24-28 VBS
- Sept 11 Voters Meeting
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Nov 30, Dec 07, 14, Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 21 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

CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Jay Holtz
Secretary: Les Britson
Finance Secretary: Pastor Phil Andreasen
Assistants: Luther Brack & Dustin Preheim
Treasurer: Marty Johnson
Elders: Tom Clauson, Paul Schilf, & Kirk Meyer
Trustees: Andrew Brack, Steve Counts, & Karl Deardoff



WEDNESDAY MATINS SERVICE

Wednesday Mornings at 9 am with the Wednesday bible study to follow the service, approximately at 9:30 am. The Wednesday afternoon Bible study no longer meets at 1pm.

From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Appointed for Ash Wednesday (ONE-YEAR; YEARS A, B, C) and the Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity
(ONE-YEAR) Lutheran Service Book 607 | study by Randall P. Wurschmidt

Introduction

Here's what Lutherans teach about confession in the Small Catechism: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven" (LSB, p. 326). In a nutshell, this is exactly what we sing in Martin Luther's hymn "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee." Whether you say it together as a congregation at the beginning of the Divine Service or individually with your pastor, Confession and Absolution has been an integral part of Lutheran piety since the earliest days of the Reformation.

- Why is it important that we confess our sins first, before hearing the words of absolution?
- What would be the advantage of private Confession and Absolution?

Exploring the Scriptures

This hymn is based on Psalm 130, one of the seven penitential psalms (see also Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102 and 143). Read Psalm 130. The image is one of drowning in sin, being totally overwhelmed by the "depths."

- What is the confession in verse 3?
- What is the promise in verse 4?

Along with the cry for mercy, the psalmist also requests that the Lord hear his prayer. See Ps. 143:1–2 for a similar pattern. God promises to hear the prayers of the faithful (1 John 5:14), and He promises to hear our confession and forgive our sin (1 John 1:9). Read 1 John 1:5–10.

- Is anyone without sin? According to verse 7, what cleanses us from all sin?

Scripture makes it clear that our own efforts do not save us. Only the blood of Jesus Christ atones for our sins and redeems us. St. Paul reminds us of this in passages such as Eph. 2:8–9. We do not deserve the mercy that God shows us in the forgiveness of sins, but He graciously provides it out of love.

- Can God's grace be understood apart from forgiveness? Why or why not?
- Do we have any part in meriting that grace?

God wants us to recognize our sin and our total dependence on Him for salvation. He wants us to turn away from those things that bring only death and return to Him who is life. It is His nature to forgive. Divine Service, Settings One and Two include an optional Lenten verse to be sung before the Gospel: "Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (pp. 157, 173). Read Joel 2:12–14.

- What does it mean to "rend your heart"?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

This was one of the first hymns of Martin Luther (1483– 1546), written in 1523 as an example that he hoped other poets, theologians and musicians would follow. He wanted to provide congregations with something they could sing in their own language during the service, something that would help people to learn the main articles of faith and that would be memorable. Luther felt it was essential that hymns teach the faith, and this hymn is one of several associated with the Six Chief Parts of the Small Catechism. Lutheran Service Book preserves this identification by including it in the section marked "Confession and Absolution." The hymn became one of Luther's own favorites and was even sung at his funeral in 1546.

- Can you think of examples of other hymns that have helped you to learn the teachings of the Christian faith?
- Thumb through the hymnal and see if you can identify all the chief parts by the headings.

Interestingly, Luther — who was a very good musician — also composed the tune for this hymn; it features a bit of text painting in the opening line. When we sing the words "from depths of woe," the word "depths" falls in pitch, musically depicting the singer's plight as he recognizes the depths of his own sinfulness.

- A text and its tune should fit well together, as this

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

one does. What might be the consequences if a tune and text are out of character with each other? (If you wish to try a famous example, sing the words of "Amazing Grace" to the tune of "Gilligan's Island.")

Text
The first stanza follows the first three verses of the psalm rather closely. The singer pleads for mercy from the depths of despair caused by the knowledge of sin. If God remembered every sin, we would be lost for sure. Who could stand in His presence?

- According to stanza 2, what instead do we rely on? "Therefore my hope is in the Lord," we sing in stanza 3, resting in the faithful Word and not in our own merit.
- To whom is the promise of mercy explicitly made?

The hymn progresses the same way that the psalm progresses: First, a confession of sin and an appeal to the Lord for mercy (sts. 1 and 2); then forgiveness and trust in God's Word (sts. 3 and 4); finally, an appeal for patience on the part of Israel.

- In the fourth and fifth stanzas, we sing about "Israel." Who is meant here?

Although Jesus' name is never explicitly used in this hymn, we are never in doubt as to the identity of the Savior. He is "our shepherd good and true" (st. 5). He is the one who sets His people free "from all their sin and sorrow" (st. 5).

- Could this hymn be sung to anyone but the Triune God of Christianity?

Making the Connection
The Divine Service begins with a confession of sins. The Confession and Absolution in Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB, p. 203) even includes words from Psalm 130. Whenever Lutherans gather together in worship, the forgiveness of sins is central to that gathering. Whether at Baptism or in the remembrance of Baptism, we recall the life-giving water, which is "a lavish washing away of sin" (LSB, p. 269). And in the Lord's Supper, the body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Luther writes in the Small Catechism, "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (LSB, p. 327).

Even repentance is God's work. The Holy Spirit works in us when we hear the Word of God and through the Means of Grace. By faith, we are brought to repentance and to confess our sins; by grace, we are saved through the blood of Christ.

- Name some other places in the liturgy of the Divine Service (or in any service) where the forgiveness of sins is explicit.
- How does making the sign of the cross also remind us of forgiveness in Christ?

In Closing
Without forgiveness, there is no life and there is no salvation. What a wretched existence that would be! But we do not live in fear of eternal damnation when we believe that Christ overcame sin and death for us.

Therefore, although we are still by nature sinful and will continue to sin throughout this life, we rejoice in the forgiveness won for us on the cross. It is not necessary to sing this hymn with gloomy and disfigured faces. Rather, we can sing it with sincere confidence that God's abundant favor is still greater than our greatest sins.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 607.

Prayer Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; 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 Ash Wednesday).

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