OCTOBER 2023

GOOD NEWS from Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church
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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
lutheranpublicradio.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

From the Pastor

1 Corinthians 1:23 ESV
[23] but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 **ESV**
And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. [2] For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. [3] And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, [4] and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [5] so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

In today's world the message of the church seems offensive and harsh. We live in a world that wants everyone to be happy and enjoy whatever they want. In our world nothing is as harsh as telling someone no.
This should not come as a surprise, for Paul understood that the message he was proclaiming was hard, no, it was impossible for the world to accept and believe. Some would see it as silly nonsense and others would not be able to get over what God's plan did. Yet, Paul and we stick to the words of scripture and by the power of the holy spirit we cling to and proclaim the promises of our God. Who would imagine that the creator of all would redeem all at the expense of His own son.?
You see the world we live in does want us to believe we can do and be anything we want. The world wants us to believe there is really nothing off limit for us and if we do go astray, we can take care of it ourselves. This is a message that just doesn't match up with the Bible. For we do much that is evil and against what God would have us do. Paul didn't have to look far to see in his own life those things that earned him condemnation. He could see clearly that there was nothing he could do to make up for all the sin that he had done and continued to do. Likewise, for us. When we take an honest look at our lives, we will see that we have more than earned condemnation and there is nothing we can do to make up for that.
It is only by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, that we are able to look at what God has done and see it as pure brilliance. With the faith that the Holy Spirit gives us we no longer see God's plan as a stumbling

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BIRTHDAYS

October

09 Bernard Ewoldt
12 Tina Counts
14 Zoey Deutsch
16 Ruthie Wetzel
19 Austin Preheim
21 Les Britson
26 Susan Powell

ANNIVERSARIES

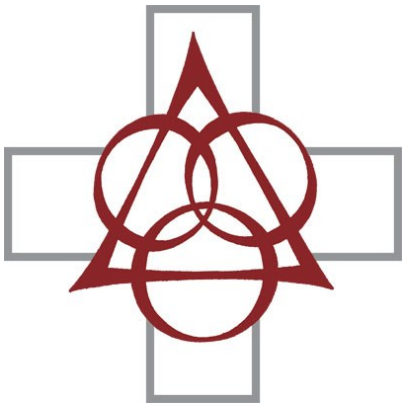
October

02 Amanda & Eli Fiddler
05 Jackie and Jim Jones
20 Duane & Bonnie Ellis



In Our Prayers

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



Life Thoughts in the Church Year (Lutherans for Life)

October 1, 17th Sunday after Trinity ~ "The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God's commandment of 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being." *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 8, 18th Sunday after Trinity ~ "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*

October 15, 19th Sunday after Trinity ~ "For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!" *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 22, 20th Sunday after Trinity ~ "So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 29, Reformation Day ~ "On this Reformation weekend, let's rekindle our commitment to be faithful to the God who both preserves and redeems this world in His ways. And let's remind ourselves of the blessings that come from following Him in all things, now and forever." *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



TRUNK OR TREAT

The Scouts will once again be hosting a Trunk or Treat from the church's parking lot on Saturday, October 28th, the time will be announced. The members of Christ are invited to participate. The children are welcome to come take part in the treats and play games, etc. Adults (kids at heart) are invited to decorate their car trunks and bring treats if they would like. If any questions, please see Steve Counts.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – October 2023

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

> "We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



Usher Needed

If you are interested in being an usher, please let Pastor Nix or Lisa know. We are going to put together a new schedule for the next year; somehow the past schedule got messed up. We would like to have 3 people on the list for each month. Even if you are already on the list, please let us know if you are okay with staying on the list or if there are times of the year that won't work for you. Thank you!

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 21, 2023

	07/2023	08/2023	09/2023
Deposits:	$ 30,320.49	$ 11,760.41	$ 8,605.40
Disbursements:	$ 18,871.07	$ 15,665.86	$ 13,600.94
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 20,256.49	$ 6,419.16	$ 8,537.40
Designated Funds:	$ 10,064.00	$ 5,341.25	$ 68.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 19,912.15	$ 15,929.72	$ 15,929.72
Mortgage Balance as of 09/21			$ 81,493.71

Seek Where You May to Find a Way

Lutheran Service Book 557 | study by Christopher I. Thoma

Introduction

The story of the RMS Titanic is a familiar one. It is quite possible that the very mention of its name conjures thoughts of pompous vanity in newspapers calling it "unsinkable." Even worse were the recorded quotes from the crew, "Not even God can sink this ship." And even though the Titanic was a visible testimony to man's ingenuity and drive to conquer nature, early in the morning of April 15, 1912, on its maiden voyage, the first-rate ship hit an iceberg and sank, killing about 1,500 passengers.

I remember watching a movie version of the tragedy and asking myself, "If I were on that ship, what would I have done to save myself?" The ship was going to sink. That's a fact. The only issue now was how to survive, how to be saved.

- Consider and discuss manmade structures. Which ones remain? Which ones have been destroyed?
- Which ones need maintenance and repair for preservation?

Exploring the Scriptures

Read John 6:68–69.

- What do Peter's words reveal about the objective truth of the Gospel?
- Where do we hear these words in the Divine Service?

Read Matt. 11:2–6. In this text, John the Baptist sends word to Jesus to ask Him if He is the "one who is to come." He is "seeking" an answer to this question.

- Why do you suppose John asked this question? Considering the context of his imprisonment, what does John do that we have a tendency to neglect doing in our daily lives?
- How does Jesus respond to John? In other words, no matter what the need may be, does He do anything for John other than what He does for us? In a time of great need, where does Jesus focus John's attention (and ours)?

Read, compare, and discuss the words of Ps. 49:5–15 and Rom. 8:28–39. Both of these texts speak of trage-

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dy, trust, endurance, life and death.

- How does 1 Peter 3:21–22 shed light on this discussion?

Exploring the Hymn
Background
It is suggested that Georg Weissel (1590–1635), the son of a mayor and the author of at least twenty hymns, penned this hymn and used it at his ordination, which took place one week after the dedication of the new church building in Königsberg, Prussia, where he would serve as pastor until his death.

As with any building project, even in medieval times, the building of a new church structure was a magnificent accomplishment that heralded the abilities of man.

- Based upon the context above, does Weissel reveal in his hymn a familiarity with man's pride in the face of accomplishment? In what ways?
- Have you experienced a new building project in your congregation? If so, what care was taken to see that all glory was given to God?
- What do the following words reveal about the pride of man and perhaps imply Weissel's intentions as a newly ordained pastor? "My heart is stilled, / On Christ I build, / He is the one foundation… . / Through Him I more than conquer" (st. 1).

Read Joshua 24:15.

- What similarities to Joshua's words to the Israelites do you find within the text of the hymn?
- Where in particular in the hymn do you see Weissel driving the reader away from the works of man to the works and accomplishments of God given in holy worship within the building?

Text
In somewhat of a rhetorical sense, with stanza 1, "Seek Where You May to Find a Way" immediately begins by presenting the looming problem.

- What is the problem?
- What is the only viable solution?
- Read 1 Cor. 3:11–13. What is absolutely necessary for a secure faith structure that will not sink, collapse, crumble or decay?

With stanza 2, Weissel continues to place before us the impenetrable hull (that is, doctrinal absolutes that cannot be rejected) of God's redemptive plan in history.

- What does it mean that Jesus was "God-man," and why does it matter? How is this denied in the world?
- Why is Jesus referred to as our "Servant-King"? How is this denied in the world?
- Which pinnacle event is referenced as the event that justifies? How does our Baptism connect to this objective truth? Read Titus 3:3–7.

Read Matt. 6:19–21, 25–34 and Luke 6:37–38.

- How do these texts speak to the abundance of God's grace? How do they speak to God's mercy reshaping our lives for service in this life?
- How does the hymn reflect these truths in stanza 3?

Perhaps you noticed that within stanzas 1–3, the conversation of the hymn is taking place between the author and the reader. With stanza 4, we see a change. Stanza 4 becomes the confession of certainty of the hymnographer himself, making the joyful declaration that Jesus is his source of delight and eternal joy.

- Read John 15:18–19 and Matt. 25:34. What do these texts say about the inheritance of faith in Christ?
- Consider again Rom. 8:35–39 and consider the possibilities, worldly and spiritual, that seek to assault and separate us from Christ. Is Paul bold or timid in his words? How is this reflected in stanza 4? According to both, where is the power found to remain connected to Christ? In other words, is it man's work or God's work?
- Read Ps. 119:105 and 2 Tim. 4:7–8. How is the Gospel promise revealed, and to what end will it carry those who fight the fight of faith in this world?

Making the Connection
This hymn is calling for the reader to locate his trust and hope in the Savior, Jesus Christ, and the accomplishments of His life, death, resurrection and ascension for those who could not save themselves.

- Where does Weissel call for the reader to locate Jesus with certainty?
- Read John 1:14. Who is the "Word"?

Saint Augustine referred to the Word of God as being

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given in two forms, verbal and visible.

- What is the verbal giving of Christ?
- What is the visible giving of Christ?

In Closing
Whether it is the almost immediate and epic sinking of the Titanic or the slower, drawn-out epic of the deterioration of all things in this world, "Seek Where You May to Find a Way" is a poetic division of Law and Gospel that has at its heart the epic of the Gospel solution for sin. It reminds the reader that all those who by faith build upon Christ, no matter the tragedy, no matter the strife, are secured for an eternity in the glorious presence of Jesus in heaven.

- What does this mean for your life and death in this world?
- Sing or read aloud together LSB 557.

Prayer
O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the only Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for Proper 20C).

Sola Fide
FAITH ALONE

UPCOMING 2023

- Oct 08 Joint Parish Meeting after church service
- Oct 28 Trunk or Treat, TBA
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Nov. 30, 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

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is a "Suffrage"?

A suffrage is a prayer for help. The word "suffrage" comes from the Latin word "suffragium" which means "support." In this type of prayer we ask our Lord to give us His support, assistance and protection. More importantly, we ask Him to keep us strong in the faith and to give faith to other people.

Why is it good to use the Suffrages?

Look at the Suffrages in our hymnal (Responsive Prayer 1, pp. 282–84 in *Lutheran Service Book*). In the morning Suffrages, we ask God to take care of us. In the afternoon or evening suffrages we ask God to protect His Church and world. God commands us to pray in this way (see 1 Tim. 2:1–4). We hear from God's Word that He desires for us to pray for all people. God wants all people to believe in Jesus. In the Suffrages, we pray that God would provide for such salvation. What a wonderful opportunity for us to speak to God on behalf of others!

Parents:
Read through Responsive Prayer 1 with your children. Compare the language in these Suffrages to the language of the Divine Service. How are they similar? How are they different? Be sure to read and discuss 1 Tim. 2:1–4.

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block, but as outstretched arms showing His Love and mercy. For we too, preach Christ Crucified as the only way to eternal life. We, by the grace of God, understand that Jesus paid for every sin ever committed with His death on the cross.

The message of Christ Crucified is harsh, but not towards us it was harsh towards Jesus. He accepted the offense and the harshness out of love for us. That way we are able to be what we were created to be, holy sons and daughters of the most high, the Creator of all the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our triune God.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

