GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2024

FROM THE PASTOR

Last month we started Lent on February 14th. Ash Wednesday had us gathering together much the same as we have for years. People lined up to have a cross of ash drawn on their foreheads. The congregation sat somber in the pews, much the same as we have for years. We gathered to the rail receiving Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. We had the same readings and some of the same hymns. When we were done, walked out. Some may have stopped some place on their way only to have others look at them puzzled by the black in the middle of their forehead, some may have even been bold enough to ask about it.



Why do we do the same thing year after year? Because, thankfully the message we proclaim continues the same, unchanging story. We have a God that Loves us so much that He sent His own Son to pay a debt we had no hope of ever paying off. If it was only our smallest sin we would stand no chance of making things right with God. But because Jesus went to the cross for us now we can boldly hear the message, repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. That is a message, that apart from faith, should make us shake in our boots. But because our gracious God has paid for our sins and has, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament, given us a faith that clings to the cross. We are able to know that as His forgiven children we are in His kingdom already, here in time and their in eternity.

By the end of the month lent will be done and we will be celebrating Easter.. Once again the same year after year, for the message of the cross and the empty tomb never change. What a comfort it is to have a never changing God who stays faithful to His promises. For outside of His church it seems the world around is continually changing. Yet we are reminded there is nothing new under the sun. the "changes" we see are simply the devil, the world and our sinful self trying to block God from our view. The same thing that was done to Adam and Eve in the garden and to every generation since.

That is why we continue consistent in what we do and say. When all others say, "did God really say?". We can boldly say yes. When we fail then we repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand and from it we hear, Your sins are forgiven now and forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

CONTENTS

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2
Life Thoughts in the Church Year 2
Stewardship 3
Treasurer's Report 4
Sermon Text & Titles 4
2024 Church Officers 4
Lamb of God, Pure and Holy 5
Kids in the Service 6
Upcoming Events 6
In Our Prayers 6
Church Flowers & Easter Lilies 6
Lamb of God, Pure and Holy 7
Announcements 8
Calendars ..... *Insert*

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 3 "Third Sunday in Lent" ~ "[W]e were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation … cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope." *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 10 "Fourth Sunday in Lent" ~ "With gentleness and respect, we witness to our faith in Jesus so that others will come to believe in Him and eagerly await His return. All who confess Jesus as Lord look forward to His Second Coming with a joy far greater than idle mirth. We are encouraged as we remind each other that our Savior is coming back, and we pray that He would 'hear and grant our fervent plea.' Come, Lord Jesus!" *Dr. Carol Geisler – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 17 "Fifth Sunday in Lent" ~ "God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand' (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us." *Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, who has Down syndrome – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 24 "Palm Sunday" ~ "So let us be sober, putting on faith and love as our breastplate and the hope of salvation as our helmet, encouraging one another and building each other up as together we faithfully wait, expectantly wait, joyfully wait—for Jesus." *Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

March 31 "Resurrection of Our Lord" ~ "The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – March 2024

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

"You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other" (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

FLOWER CHART

The 2024 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.



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
February 29, 2024

	12/2023	01/2024	02/2024
Deposits:	$ 58,340.53	$ 12,424.40	$ 14,533.25
Disbursements:	$ 23,692.50	$ 19,429.38	$ 19,067.32
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 51,232.53	$ 12,317.40	$ 14,341.50
Designated Funds:	$ 7,108.00	$ 107.00	$ 191.75
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 19,912.15	$ 15,929.72	$ 15,929.72
Mortgage Balance as of 2/29			$70,843.25

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES

3/3/24	***Do not be divided from Jesus!!***	Luke 11:17
3/6/24	***Why do you rebuke Jesus?***	Matthew 16:22
3/10/24	***Jesus feeds you too.***	John 6:11
3/13/24	***Why do you defend Jesus?***	John 18:10
3/17/24	***Do you understand Jesus?***	John 8:43
3/20/24	***Why do you deny Jesus?***	John 18:27
3/24/24	***Even the King of Israel!***	John 12:13
3/28/24	***You have been bathed!***	John 13:10
3/29/24	***Whom do you seek?***	John 18:4
3/31/24	***Why are you weeping?***	John 20:13
3/31/24	***Who do you seek?***	Mark 16:6

2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Michael Grooms

Elders: Jay Holtz
Les Britson
Dan Monson

Secretary: Luther Brack

Financial Secretary: Rev. Phillip Andreasen

Asst. to the Financial Secretary: Dustin Preheim
Luther Brack

Treasurer: Marty Johnson

Trustees: Jonathan Fick
Andrew Brack
Dustin Preheim

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Lutheran Service Book 434 | study by Frank J. Pies

Introduction

Most people familiar with American history are able to identify certain political figures by the particular designations accorded to them. The "Father of our country" is unquestionably George Washington, and "Honest Abe" can only be Abraham Lincoln. Church history, likewise, has its share of titled people. Martin Luther is the "Reformer of Western Christendom," and Isaac Watts is the "Father of English Hymnody."

This manner of denominating individuals is also found in biblical history, especially as it concerns the Lord Jesus. Scripture calls Him many names, each uniquely expressive of His person and work for us sinners. Today's hymn addresses Christ by that title which is most comforting and endearing to His people, particularly at this holy time of our Church Year.

- What is the Lord called at the beginning of each of the hymn's three stanzas?
- What does this image mean to you? How do you understand it?

Exploring the Scriptures

The proper interpretation of who Jesus is and what He does as the Lamb of God is revealed in the written Word of God. The Old Testament contains the background necessary for this understanding, typifying and foreshadowing, predicting and pointing to the reality that is in Christ.

- What did the Lord direct the children of Israel to do on their last evening in Egyptian captivity? See Ex. 12:1–11. What promise did God make to those who smeared the lamb's blood on the doorframes of their homes? See Ex. 12:12–13. Imagine the joy and thanksgiving Israel experienced as God fulfilled this promise. See Ps. 136:1–3, 10–12.
- So that unholy Israel might have fellowship with the holy Lord, He established the Aaronic priesthood and the Levitical system of worship. What sacrifices did God require for the daily offering? See Ex. 29:38–39. For the fellowship and sin offerings? See Lev. 3:6–8; 4:32–34.
- How did the prophet Isaiah describe God's Suffering Servant seven centuries before the events of Holy Week took place? See Is. 53:6–7.

Against this rich backdrop, the New Testament emphatically declares that Jesus is God's Lamb who gave Himself as the sacrifice to win forgiveness for the sinful world.

- What did John the Baptizer call Jesus in John 1:29, 35–36? Why did John refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God? What was His mission? Where in the liturgy do we sing these inspired words? Why?
- How did God's Lamb take away the world's sin? See Heb. 9:11–14; 1 Peter 1:18–19; and 1 John 1:7.
- What does St. Paul call Christ in 1 Cor. 5:7? Discuss this naming in light of the fact that ancient Israel's deliverance by the Lord's Passover was a foreshadowing of the world's deliverance from sin and death by Jesus' death and resurrection.
- How is the victorious Christ described in Rev. 5:6? What "new song" is sung in praise of Him, a portion of which Lutherans in our generation intone in the liturgical canticle, "This Is the Feast"? See Rev. 5:9. What ultimate celebration do we who believe in the Lamb look forward to? See Rev. 7:9–17.

Exploring the Hymn Background

A version of the early medieval Latin canticle "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God), the beautiful text and melody of "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" were penned and composed by Nicolaus Decius (c. 1485–after 1546), a German Lutheran pastor and hymn writer, author and composer.

Subsequent to serving in the Roman Church as a monk and monastery provost, Decius embraced the Reformation early in its history. In 1522, a year before Luther wrote his first hymn, Decius wrote what are probably the first hymns of Lutheranism, two of which are in LSB ("Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" and "All Glory Be to God on High").

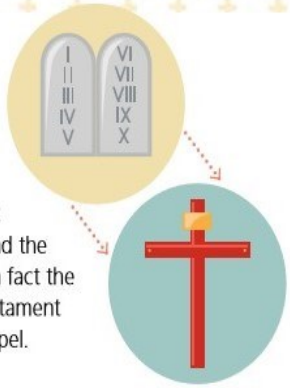
- To what degree do you think Decius' hymn-writing was influenced by learning the truth of the Bible proclaimed anew in the Reformation? What is the relationship between knowing the light of God's Word and serving in and by that illuminating Word?

Although Decius completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of Wittenberg and was a minister in the Lutheran Church, in his later life he inclined strongly toward Calvinism.

- What might this fact suggest about the constant need to nurture our faith with the truth of God's

Continues on page 7

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Law and Gospel

Many people wrongly think that the Old Testament is the Law and the New Testament is the Gospel. In fact the Old Testament and the New Testament each contain both Law and Gospel.

What are the basics of the Law and the Gospel?

The Law teaches us God's will for how we live, namely the Ten Commandments. God's Law demands perfection, but it is impossible to be perfect. According to the Law, we are sinners, and are in big trouble with God. We need someone to save us. The Law shows us our sins.

The Gospel tells us what Jesus has done to save us from our sins. But the Gospel doesn't stop there. It tells us what Jesus continues to do for us because of His great love for us. The Gospel shows us our Savior, Jesus!

An easy way to remember all of this is to think of the following letters: S.O.S. The Law "shows our sins" while the Gospel "shows our Savior"!

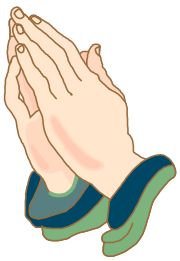
Parents: Distinguishing between Law and Gospel is a life-long venture of study. Perhaps you or your child can take notes during the sermon. Following the Divine Service, discuss these notes, identifying the Law and the Gospel in the sermon.

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UPCOMING

2024

- Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 10 Voters Meeting
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 29 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Mar 31 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Mar 31 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Mar 31 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- April 20 Women's Brunch, TBA
- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 12 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- June 09 Voters Meeting
- July 21-25 VBS
- Sept 08 Voters Meeting
- Nov 03 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 1 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 08, 15, 22 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 08: 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

Les Britson, hospitalized
Duane Tieszen (son of Ray), Cancer treatment
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and Healing
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson at home



The 2024 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.



EASTER LILIES

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for donating Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. The cost of the lilies are $15 each. Please sign up if you are interested .

Continuation of ***Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*** *from page 5*

Word lest we go astray?

Text

One of the things about the hymn that first strikes a person is its form: three stanzas, all of them identical except for the last line of the last stanza.

- Why do you think this format was used? Why not offer the hymn in one or two stanzas? Recall the threefold form of the traditional Kyrie: "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy."
- What value does such repetition have as an aid for retaining, recalling, meditating upon, absorbing, savoring and rejoicing in the scriptural message of the hymn?

Addressed to Jesus, the hymn is largely a statement of His holy Passion and its blessed benefits.

- After calling Christ the Lamb who belongs to and is supplied by God, what does line 1 declare about His person and work for us sinners? Why are these facts critical to the Gospel? See Heb. 7:26–27.
- How is the sacrifice of Christ described in line 2? Compare Phil. 2:5–8.
- As the hymn ascends to its summit in line 3, what does it confess about Christ's burden? What is the significance of the phrase "for us"? What is the horrible, helpless despair that would reign over us without Jesus' forgiveness earned by His atoning sacrifice? See Rom. 6:23.

In the last lines of the hymn, saving faith looks upon the spotless, patient Lamb of God and confidently cries for rescue, seeking and receiving the gifts He imparts through His Gospel and Sacraments.

- The help that we sinners need, which Jesus ably and generously provides, is humbly requested in the last lines of stanzas 1 and 2. What is it?
- What blessing is petitioned in the last line of stanza 3? Why is the personal pronoun "Thy" used in connection with this gift? See John 14:27.
- Remembering that the name Jesus means "Savior," what's the significance of twice calling out "O Jesus!" at the end of each of the three stanzas? See Rom. 6:23.

Making the Connection

The one of whom we sing in this hymn makes all the difference in our lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

- What does the forgiveness of sins won by Jesus mean to you? See Matt. 9:2 and Luke 7:36–50.
- Discuss this amazing difference as summarized by Luther: "It is extremely important that we know where our sins have been disposed of. The Law deposits them on our conscience and shoves them into our bosom. But God takes them from us and places them on the shoulders of the Lamb ... God says: 'I know that your sin is unbearable for you; therefore behold, I will lay it upon My Lamb and relieve you of it. Believe this! If you do, you are delivered of sin.' There are only two abodes for sin: it either resides with you, weighing you down; or it lies on Christ, the Lamb of God. If it is loaded on your back, you are lost; but if it rests on Christ, you are free and saved" (AE 22:169–70).

In Closing

The more we grow in the knowledge that Jesus is God's Lamb for us, the more we recognize the inexhaustible blessedness of His Gospel. Little wonder that "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" is a favorite hymn in Lutheranism, frequently sung in the midweek Lenten services and during Holy Week.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 434.

Prayer

Almighty God, grant that in the midst of our failures and weaknesses we may be restored through the passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Collect for Monday in Holy Week).

GOOD NEWS!

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

(Romans 5:8 NKJV)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 10, 2024

VOTERS MEETING — MARCH 10, 2024 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 2 will be pizza, 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.



ADULT CHURCH CHOIR

Choir practice meets on Wednesday after the Lenten Service. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions please talk to Lynette



BELL CHOIR

Practice begins at 6:15pm on Wednesday evenings. During Lent New members are always welcome. If you have any questions please talk to Lynette .



WOMEN'S BRUNCH



There will be a brunch for all women of Christ Lutheran and their daughters. There will be plenty of good food, fellowship and a devotion. The brunch will be held on Saturday, April 20th at 10am. If you have any questions please ask Barb Wetzel or Lynette Wedeking.

YOUTH TRIP



Please check the bulletin board in the Fellowship hall. Mount Calvary from Brookings, is hosting a youth trip to Concordia University in Wisconsin, both of our Seminaries, the Creation Museum, Ark Encounter and Potter's Ranch. There are some openings if anyone is interested. There is more information on the flier on the bulletin board. If you have additional questions, see Pastor Nix.

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