GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2025

WELCOME and get to know

Jason, Kelly, and Estelle Clare were welcomed into membership at Christ.
April 7, 2024



The Congregation witnessed Estelle's Baptism and Jason and Kelly's Confirmation.

Jason was baptized here at Christ when he was 17. He has always lived in Sioux Falls and is employed by Sanford Health in the IT department.
Kelly grew up in Armour, SD. and works in Compliance for Wells Fargo Bank.
Their daughter Estelle is a 4th grader who loves taking Dance and going to competitions.
We are thankful and blessed to have them as members of the body of Christ.

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BIRTHDAYS

April

04 Sarah Deutsch
10 Matthew Arlton
11 David Wetzel
13 Phyllis Monson
14 Sadrine Na Kirindo
14 Jay Wehking
17 Cherie Zehendner
22 Dustin Preheim
23 Alia Robison
26 Jordan Brack
26 Samuel Fick
26 Victor Wedeking

ANNIVERSARIES

April

14 Phil & Monica Andreasen
19 Les & Vickie Britson
24 Melanie & Ryan Hericks

FLOWER CHART

The 2025 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 Cherie Zehendner.



Sacred Music 24/7



lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

April 6 "Friend, you have a good word to speak to your neighbor. You have God's Word of life to share—with your spouse, your children or grandchildren, your co-worker or friend. You can tell them that their life is sacred, a gift of God, and that their life matters to you." *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church–Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 13 "Commit to seeking opportunities to be a light to those living in darkness. Do not place that responsibility on the full-time leaders of the Church. This is your mission in life. God has uniquely placed you in the exact situations, locations, and relationships to make the Light of the world visible and concrete. You are the look of Christ's face. You are the tone of His voice. You are the touch of His hands. You are the physical representation of His light in a dark world (Ephesians 5:8). How bright will you shine this year?" *Paul David Tripp, author and speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 20 "Perhaps as our culture seems to be increasingly more challenging, it may help to think of hope as the complete opposite of despair. Hope is not optional for the believer. Our hope is secure because, as we all say again, 'Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!'" *John Stonestreet – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

April 27 "Knowing that God is always near as our Help moves us to reflect the Savior's love in helping others. 'Carry each other's burdens' (Galatians 6:2)." *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Upon the Cross Extended

Lutheran Service Book 453 | study by Shawn L. Kumm

Introduction

The deed was done. Nails were pounded into outstretched hands and painfully twisted feet. A previously crushed crown of thorns was less than regally in place. His holy blood, already dried to His scourged back, now oozed from hands, feet and head. There is the King of kings, upon the cross extended.

The description makes us avert our eyes, yes, even from the picture in our imaginations. The Gospel writers painted a dark, vivid portrait of the dying Lord Jesus. The darkened

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STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – April 2025

Stewardship Essentials: Repetition

March 10, 2025 / Articles, Ministry Features / By Nathan Meador / 1 Comment / Stewardship Ministry

A seminary professor once quipped to a group of soon-to-be pastors just before Call Day: "Congratulations, brothers. You are about to graduate and become pastors. You will likely get two weeks of vacation your first year. This means that for 50 weeks in that year you will get to say the same thing, in new and creative ways."

Even though this professor was talking about proclaiming Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins every single Sunday, what he said also applies to the whole counsel of God, including Christian stewardship.

But this is the mistake so many pastors and steward leaders make every year. They relegate the teaching of stewardship to those weeks just before the creation of the congregational budget, or only begin teaching stewardship when the financial resources of the congregation are beginning to wear thin. This situation is the result of a truncated and impoverished view of stewardship. Instead, how should we teach stewardship?

Stewardship begins in our baptismal identity in Christ

The identity of the Christian steward is far more complex than any giving chart or commitment card. When we relegate stewardship to time, talents and treasure, though these are neat compartments, they obscure a much larger truth. For both the individual and the congregation, the identity and vocation of the steward is at the very heart of the Gospel.

No pastor worth their salt would ever balk at reminding those entrusted to his care that they are baptized. From the structure and flow of the liturgy to preaching through the lectionary, the Divine Service is a weekly reminder that those gathered around Word and Sacrament are baptized.

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sky covers all. The few remaining who loved Him watch and wait.

There is nothing in history to compare to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. Many others had been crucified, and indeed would be crucified. Two others are there with Jesus. But this crucifixion is different. God hangs there, with all the weight of the world's sin upon Him. Jesus is forsaken to do it all alone, for in righteous response to such sin, the holy Father forsakes His Son — for a while. But in the meantime, we, through the sacred pages of Scripture, watch and wait too.

- What part of the crucifixion is most vivid to you?
- If you have seen someone die in the faith, what common element of death was shared with Jesus by that person in his or her last moments?

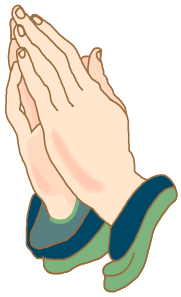
Exploring the Scriptures

The prophet Isaiah is given specific insight into many parts of the life of the Lord Jesus. As sung in another hymn, "Isaiah 'twas foretold it" (LSB 359:2). The Savior's virgin birth is seen some 600 years in advance (Is. 7:14). The healing ministry of Jesus is described in

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
March 25th, 2025

	01/2025	02/2025	03/2025
Deposits:	$ 14,542.36	$ 47,568.69	$ 16,407.58
Disbursements:	$ 32,401.33	$ 14,567.92	$ 22,704.49
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 11,919.36	$ 44,056.69	$ 16,079.17
Designated Funds:	$ 2,623.00	$ 3,512.00	$ 282.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 03/25			$ 43,104.34



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home

Susan Powell, at home

Elva Clauson, at home

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comforting detail (Is. 35; 42:1–7). But late in the prophecy of Isaiah, we wince. The tone changes when the reader gets toward the end of Isaiah 52 (vv. 13–15). Something else is now going on. The servant's appearance is marred (v. 14). He shall sprinkle many nations (v. 15). What can this all mean?

And it doesn't get much better in chapter 53, the main scriptural basis for this hymn. Imagine hearing this for the first time in the early 700s or late 600s B.C. Surely the Lord isn't talking about anyone in Israel. What can this mean for us, the inheritors of God's good and gracious promises?

You have the benefit of 20 centuries of hindsight. It's been over 2,400 years since Isaiah wrote, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the words that form the center of this hymn.

- Read Is. 52:13—53:12. Note along the way, verse by verse, how the life, suffering and death of Jesus are predicted in greatest detail.
- With Easter in sight, look for a hint of the resurrection in the verses above from Isaiah.
- Read Heb. 9:26, another Scripture passage reflected in this hymn. How is the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus connected to you?
- Peter is an eyewitness in the courtyard as Jesus is tried, spat upon, scourged and mocked. Now read 1 Peter 2:21–25. In these verses, where does Peter show that he is familiar with Is. 52:13—53:12?

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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is "Matins"?

Today we receive our Lord's gracious gifts through the Order of Matins. The word "Matins" comes from the Latin word "matutinus" which means "of the morning." Matins is a service of prayer that is used by the Church in the morning.

Why do we use the Order of Matins?

The Order of Matins has been used by Christians since almost the beginning of Christianity. At the beginning of the day, Christians prayed the Order of Matins because it started their day off right! You can use the Order of Matins too! When you wake up in the morning, grab your hymnal and try it. What better way than to begin each morning deep in God's wonderful Word? If you're not sure how to do it, then ask your pastor. He'd be glad to help you!

Parents: It can be quite easy for children to learn and enjoy the liturgy of the Church when a parent shows them how. Children rely upon routines in their lives, which are put in place by parents. Matins can become a part of the morning devotional routine at your house.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2025

- April 2, 9 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- April 5 Ladies' brunch, 10am
- April 13 Confirmation
- 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

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This baptismal identity is not one God's people claimed for themselves. It is one that has been placed on them. The baptized have put on Christ. They are not their own. They have been bought with a price. The currency of that purchase is not gold or silver, but the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Repeat it often: Be who Christ redeemed you to be

This is a message that is repeated in new and creative ways every week in orthodox Lutheran preaching and teaching.

This repetition is essential for two reasons. One, it is a call to repentance. Even the most faithful saint daily and often forgets that they do not belong to themselves. They claim ownership of what is really a trust from God. In the process, they are wallowing in idolatry that can and will separate them from the mercy of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Second, weekly repetition is necessary because it is often forgotten that what is lost and then restored by grace in one's baptismal identity is also a call to stewardship. Stewardship needs to be taught weekly since we forget it daily!

But this repetition is not about being the leech of Proverbs 30, demanding "Give, give" (Prov. 30:15). This weekly repetitive call to Christian stewardship is *be*!

Be who the Lord has made and redeemed you to be. This is a lesson that cannot be taught too much.

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SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

The Reverend Scott C. Sailer
President

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MEMO

DATE: March 20, 2025
TO: Chairmen, South Dakota District Congregations
FROM: Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer, President
RE: Installation of President-Elect Sturzenbecher; Retirement of Julie Pike

Brothers in Christ:

God's PEACE to you because of the Savior, "who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2).

A couple of important events are happening in our LCMS South Dakota District. First, our new District President, Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, will be installed as president on Sunday, May 4, in a 7:00 p.m. service (MDT). The Service of Installation will take place at the congregation he currently serves, Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7308 Wedgewood Drive, Black Hawk, SD 57718.

The members of your congregation are invited to attend. The service will be preceded by a reception, with heavy hors d'vours, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The Black Hawk congregation does want an RSVP for anyone who plans to attend. Call or email the church: 605/787-6438; dslcsecretary@divineshep.org.

Second, many of you know Mrs. Julie Pike, the administrative assistant here in the District Office. Julie is retiring in early June, after 37 years of service. She has been such a help to the congregations, schools, church workers, and church members of the South Dakota District. She will be greatly missed. Julie's tenure here has spanned the service of five District Presidents, counting a couple of weeks with the new president, and five executive secretaries/Assistant to the President.

Cards of appreciation can be sent to Julie at the address, above, or she can be emailed at jpike@midco.net.

Finally, my service as the District President officially continues until the installation of Rev. Sturzenbecher. However, I'll continue to work through the end of May to assist Rev. Sturzenbecher in knowing more about his new ministry. It has been my privilege and joy to serve you, the precious people of God in the LCMS South Dakota District, since 2015!

Please share this memo with your congregation. Thank you.

God bless and keep you always!

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Scott Sailer

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Exploring the Hymn
Background

Paul Gerhardt (1607–76) lived in tumultuous times. The Thirty Years' War (1618–48) began in his 10th year. His father, the mayor of a small village, died before he reached maturity. He suffered the jealousy of colleagues. He suffered from want of income. Doctrinal controversy left him without office. His wife and all but one of his children preceded him in death.

Nevertheless, Gerhardt preached the Gospel in season and out. Common parishioners supported him when princes abused him.

And he wrote. Gerhardt wrote over 130 German hymns and poems and at least 14 Latin poems. His poems com forted victims of the Thirty Years' War and victims of fire and plague.

- Paul Gerhardt died on May 27, 1676, during his 70th year. It is said that his last words were from one of his hymns. The stanza he used is translated "Death cannot destroy forever" (The Lutheran Hymnal [CPH, 1941]). How does the Christian faith justify Gerhardt's bold statement?

- After he died, a large portrait of Gerhardt was painted that still hangs in the last church in which he served. Underneath the portrait are the Latin words Theologus in cribo Satanae versatus: "A theologian sifted in Satan's sieve." How do these words sum up Gerhardt's life?
- In his testament to his son, Gerhardt closed with these words: "In summary: Pray diligently, study something honorable, live peacefully, serve honestly, and remain unmoved in your faith and confessing. If you do this, you too will one day die and depart from this world willingly, joyfully, and blessedly. Amen" (bach-cantatas.com/ Topics/Librettist.htm). How would these words be good for your life in Christ?

Text

Though originally a much longer hymn (German hymn writers and poets at the time were well known for long writings), the seven remaining stanzas of this hymn get straight to the point: The Lord Jesus suspended on the cross has true meaning for your life.

- In stanzas 1 and 2, who does Gerhardt invite to see the cross of Jesus? In his sermon on Pentecost, Peter preaches laser-sharp Law. Take a look at Acts 2:36.
- Stanzas 3 and 4 get to the heart of the matter. Who does Gerhardt see as having been the problem all along? How do Gerhardt's words echo Paul's in 1 Tim. 1:15? Gerhardt's mastery of the poetic phrase shows up even in the translation from German into English by John Kelly (1833–90).
- Look at the openings words to stanzas 5, 6 and 7. How is the emphasis placed on Jesus? Match the lines in each stanza with the following Bible passages: Stanza 5 with Is. 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24; stanza 6 with Eccl. 4:12 and Is. 61:1; and stanza 7 with 1 Cor. 1:18 and Is. 50:4.

Making the Connection

The suffering Christian finds hope in the sufferings of Jesus — you are sustained in your suffering by the Savior who suffered for you.

A famous woodcut by 16th-century artist Albrecht Dürer shows Jesus extended upon the cross. Angels with chalices catch blood pouring from His hands and feet.

- Connect stanza 2 with 1 Cor. 11:26; Rev. 1:5; and 1 John 1:7.
- Connect Heb. 12:22–24 with the Sacrament of the Altar.

In Closing

As time permits, read in its entirety Is.

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Sermon Text and Titles for April

Date	Sermon Title	Text	Sermon Hymn	Number
04/02/25	Faith for a complicated World	Luke 23:1-25	Hail, Thou once despised Jesus	531
04/06/25	The inheritance may be ours!!!	Luke 20:14	My song is love unknown	430
04/09/25	that Day and Today	Luke 23:26-43	Christ, the life of all the living	420
04/13/25	Even the King of Israel.	John 12:13	A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth	438
04/17/25	The Eternal Passover That Jesus Desired to Eat	Luke 22:14-23	O Lord, we praise Thee	617
04/18/25	Evil Friday is also Good Friday	Luke 23:44-56	O sacred Head, now wounded	449
04/20/25	Do You Still Walk in Darkness	John 20:1	Awake, my heart, with gladness	467
04/20/25	The power of the Easter Promise	Luke 24:1-12	I know that my Redeemer lives	461
04/27/25	Do you know Jesus' Peace?	John 20:19	O sons and daughters of the King	471

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Is there a financial component to that? Of course there is! But it is so much more. Teaching stewardship as identity is the weekly call to serve the Lord by serving the neighbor. Because of sinful flesh that is turned in on itself, the sinner-steward often forgets their identity. Then, without fail, this forgotten identity leads to failed and sinful activity.

For this reason, the steward leader needs to strive for repetition in stewardship formation. The lectionary is a great tool in this. Every week, the assigned readings allow for, and even demand, a treatment from the perspective of the Christian steward. Managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes is what the individual steward is called to do every day of their life. Repetition teaches this.

Steward leader: do not be afraid to be repetitive. Parents, teachers, and even God Himself repeat things so that the child, student and steward may learn. These lessons are learned by repeated exposure to the Gospel. This is done 52 weeks a year. And in the process stewards learn. They learn who they are. They learn what they are called to do. And they grow to the glory of God and the benefit of their neighbor.

LCMS Stewardship ministry features may be reprinted with acknowledgment given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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52:13—53:12. Recall all you know about the crucifixion of your Lord Jesus and note how all the pieces from Isaiah fit in the completed puzzle of salvation.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 453.
- Pray in unison or responsively Psalm 71, the appointed psalm for Tuesday in Holy Week.

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for Palm Sunday)

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