GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2024

FROM PASTOR MATTHEW HARRISON

Did you ever catch the Canadian program, "The Red Green Show" on PBS? It was a comedy about a television handyman (Red Green) whose onscreen repairs often don't go well, usually because of his own mistakes. A recurring feature of the show was the "man's prayer": "I'm a man, but I can change, if I have to, I guess." Sure, it was funny. But in its repeated negative depiction of men, maybe it contributed to the ongoing subversion of masculinity by contemporary culture.

Young men today, especially those outside the church, have grown up with a distorted view of masculinity. Too many of the motion pictures and television sitcoms they watched depicted fathers — if they were even around — as buffoons, while the ads sold the trope of the dumb dad. Meanwhile, many of their mothers probably had [feminist activist] Betty Friedan's books on the shelf, while their sisters sported "anything boys can do, girls can do better" T-shirts and aspired to be like Mulan, Merida or Moana. These young men have grown up breathing the poisoned air of a radically feminist culture. Masculinity is toxic, they're told, which seems obvious to anyone raised on this steady diet of pop culture.

Enter Jordan Peterson. Or Joe Rogan. Or anyone with the common sense to say that there's something good about being a man — that men should embrace their masculine distinctiveness or that being a man is not a punchline. If we're surprised that young men today are attracted to figures like these, the joke's on us. If we fail to recognize and encourage biblical masculinity in the church, we shouldn't be surprised when young men seek out unbiblical and sometimes harmful caricatures of masculinity.

On the sixth day, having crowned His creation with the man and the woman, God upgraded His assessment of His handiwork from "good" to "very good." God wasn't despising women when He made Adam to be head and Eve to be helper. Nor was He scorning men when He gave to women the distinct and beautiful capacity to nurture and sustain life with their own bodies. The differences between men and women are not something to apologize for but to celebrate. One common humanity comprises two distinct sexes; male and female He created them.

Though the Fall has distorted the perfection of Eden, making burdens of man's sacrifice and the woman's receptiveness, Christ, who is the image of God (Col. 1:15), restores our broken humanity. In Christ, women are free to be women, and men are free to be men. "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Gal. 5:13). Our sisters and daughters need to know that femininity is good for them and of service to their neighbors. Our brothers and sons need to know that masculinity is likewise good for them and of service to their neighbors.

The complementary natures of men and women compose a kind of living sermon. Having held up

(Continued on page 8)

VOTERS MEETING — JUNE 9, 2024 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

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BIRTHDAYS

June

02 Thomas Miller
07 Tom Clauson
09 Hadessah Na Kirindo
11 Cody Cook
17 Barb Wetzel
18 Grace Counts
18 Amanda Miller
22 Michael Deutsch
22 Thomas Currey
23 Pastor Matthew Nix
23 Shannon Deardoff
24 Amanda (Brack) Fiddler

ANNIVERSARIES

June

01 Cody and Nicole Doohen
11 Carl and Shannon Deardoff
13 Victor & Lynette Wedeking
15 Tom and Elva Clauson
15 Dustin and Stephanie Preheim
18 Jay and Jodie Holtz

BAPTISMS

01 Ryan Hericks
01 Lisa Johnson
10 Victor Wedeking
13 Zachary Nix
20 Dustin Preheim
26 Steve Counts
28 Nicole Doohen
30 Elva Clauson

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LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

June 2, *First Sunday after Trinity* - "So, what are we as Christians to do in a culture that rejects God's gift of marriage, sex within its bounds, and children? Repent. Turn from your sin. Receive Jesus' forgiveness. And do not forget to pray. Pray for all marriages and all families, that the Lord who makes two into one flesh would richly bless them with His love, joy, and mercy." *Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Concordia Theological Seminary – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 9, *Second Sunday after Trinity* - "For the Christian, changing hearts and minds isn't just about meeting bodily needs; it also means connecting our neighbor to the true source of life—Christ Himself. It means providing for her needs in this world and the next by boldly intertwining our works and words of mercy with the gift of mercy Himself. It means helping him carry the crosses of this world on the way to his heavenly home." *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 16, *Third Sunday after Trinity* - "I can finally perceive that God put some of the most difficult neighbors in my life at some of the most difficult times in order to bring me to the end of myself. Jesus didn't say that what God asks us to do would be easy. What God asks is impossibly difficult if God were not actually alongside us, helping us every step of the way. But the good news is that He is alongside us, helping us every step of the way." *Donna Harrison, M.D., American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 23, *Fourth Sunday after Trinity* - "The state of marriage is under a full assault from the devil. He will use whatever means necessary to destroy what God has created. Pray also for all God's children. Pray that love may abound in all homes. Pray that forgiveness may be the first word spoken between husbands and wives, parents and children. Pray that you and all people receive an increase of the Holy Spirit, for it is only through Him that we may repent of our sinful lives, amend our ways, and live joyfully in the comfort of God's grace." *Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Concordia Theological Seminary – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 30, *Fifth Sunday after Trinity* - "History, science, and Holy Scripture affirm: No matter what age, every human life has irreducible worth. No matter what appearance, every human life has inestimable purpose. No matter what abilities, every genetic member of this one race and species of ours has incomparable and irreplaceable sanctity—the cute little babies and the dear old ladies, yes; but also those who in pride promote, those who in anger permit, those who in fear participate in the devil's deception that death supplies a suitable solution to difficulty—none so helpless, dependent, and undeserving as we ourselves." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – June 2024

The Gift of Contentment

As children grow up, they often feel cramped by their parents' restrictions. Dad says to be home by 11. But why can't I say out 'til midnight? Mom says to clean your room on Saturday morning. But I want to sleep in late, then roll out of bed, hop in the car and go to my friend's house without delay. I want to do what I decide is best.

The older we get, and especially when we have kids of our own, we begin to see the truth. Mom and Dad were not cramping our style or trying to crush our personal freedom — they were looking out for us, providing for us and teaching us a better way of life.

If that's how it is with fallible human parents, how much more so with our Heavenly Father! We sinners often feel cramped by the Law of God. Our sinful flesh wants to go its own way, do its own thing and be in charge. But in our heart of hearts, we know how foolish this is. We know that God loves us, and therefore all of His commands are for our benefit. Each one of His commandments is meant to bless us. Consider the last two commandments:

> **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
>
> *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (SC II)

> **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**
>
> *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty. (SC II)

The commandments against coveting are warning us against losing one of the greatest gifts we can possess: contentment. Being content and thankful with what God has provided for us is a necessary building block of living a happy life. Unthankful coveting of what we have not been given will only make us miserable, so God warns us against it.

God has proven His love for us in sending His only begotten Son to shed His blood for us, cleanse us of our sins and brings us back into His family. If He loves us this much, then when percentage of His commandments do you think are meant to harm us? Probably no more than one or two percent, right? Of course that's absurd. God means to bless us with everything He says to us. The Law of God simply describes what a truly happy life, lived in thankfulness to Christ, looks like: It's a generous, merciful, contented life that uses all of the resources God has given us for His purposes.



Vacation Bible School

We will be holding VBS Sunday, July 21st—Thursday July 25th this year from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm. If you have children that you would like to register, please watch the credenza in the Narthex in the next few weeks for the registration forms. Please turn a completed registration form into the Church Office; we will have a box set up for them.

We will need some volunteers who would like to help out with VBS. If you would be interested in volunteering or would have questions, please see Pastor Nix. We may also need some items donated for snacks, or decorations. If you would be interested in donating anything, see Pastor Nix.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
May 30, 2024

	03/2024	04/2024	05/2024
Deposits:	$ 34,978.31	$ 19,780.96	$ 22,974.50
Disbursements:	$ 13,833.29	$ 15,387.69	$ 13,978.67
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 24,662.31	$ 15,654.34	$ 20,136.50
Designated Funds:	$ 10,316.00	$ 4,126.62	$ 2,838.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 21,234.00	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 05/30			$ 64,577.91



SUMMER HELP NEEDED



With summer schedules changing, we are in need of help with mowing the lawn and some of the simple cleaning duties at the church. If you are able to volunteer for any of these duties, please let us know. We will create a schedule so people would know when they have signed up and we would know we have the required coverage. The church will supply the mower, gas, cleaning supplies and equipment.

IN OUR PRAYERS



Clair Tieszen, sister of Dorothy Wieczorek, has stage four cancer.
Kris Deardoff, (Carl's mother), health
Les Britson, at home for recovery
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, recovery at home



THE ALTAR FLOWER CHART

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.

To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
Lutheran Service Book 768 | study by Thomas E. Lock

Introduction

Lutherans often are accused of speaking little of the Holy Spirit. The Third Articles (Holy Spirit) of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds are shorter than the Second Articles (Christ) (LSB, p. 322–23). The focus of Lutheran preaching is Christ and His salvation of man, not the works of the Holy Spirit shown in our own works. What frequently is overlooked is that whenever we speak of the Church of all believers, we speak of the Holy Spirit. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, no one could be saved. As Martin Luther wrote in his Large Catechism:

> The work of redemption is done and accomplished [John 19:30]. Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, and so on [Colossians 2:3]. But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would be useless and lost. So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God has caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed (LC II 38). The task of the Holy Spirit is to sanctify us by revealing and delivering Christ with His blessings to sinners. Our prayers rarely are to the Holy Spirit. Yet, in today's hymn, we do pray to the Holy Spirit that He would keep His Church — and all her members — in the true faith that is created only by the Spirit.

- Whose work creates and sustains faith in man? Does man contribute anything to his own conversion? Why is it right that we pray to the Holy Spirit for faith to remain among us?

Exploring the Scriptures

The Holy Gospel for the First Sunday after Trinity is the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. This story is spoken against the Pharisees, who are described as "lovers of money" (Luke 16:14). Read Luke 16:19–31.

- At the beginning, how are the "comforts" of the rich man described? Could Lazarus take care of himself? Upon whom did Lazarus rely? Could it be said that Lazarus was placed at the rich man's door to give him an opportunity to prove his faith and love?

- At death, where did these two men end up? Was it the man's riches or Lazarus' poverty that determined their place?

Abraham, one of the richest men in the Bible, is described as the father of all the faithful (John 8:48–58; Romans 4; Heb. 11:8–10).

- What riches (not money) did Abraham have that would gain heaven for him?

- The rich man is told that a great gulf separates him in torment from Lazarus in blessing. What had the rich man and his brothers not trusted? What person of the Holy Trinity reveals and delivers to sinners Christ and all His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation? What is the Church (guided by the Holy Spirit) to proclaim?

Exploring the Hymn Background

The anonymous first stanza of today's hymn is a Pentecost carol from the thirteenth century. This stanza was mentioned twice in a sermon by 13th century Berthold of Regensburg in which he encouraged his hearers to sing this hymn in the service on Pentecost. This encouragement is remarkable since congregational singing was rarely allowed (except for Easter/Christmas carols) in Roman Catholic congregations.

The singing of this stanza remained popular in German lands. Martin Luther (1483–1546) loved this stanza and encouraged its frequent singing. In 1524 Luther was in the midst of theological conflicts with many who believed that the Spirit guided people directly — apart from, and in contradiction to, God's revealed Word. One of the false teachers was Luther's former colleague at Wittenberg, Andreas Carlstadt (c. 1486–1541). Carlstadt's primary focus was on what the Christian did, not on what Christ had done and what the Holy Spirit was doing by His Word. One of the ways Luther confronted this false theology was by this hymn's use; Luther also added three new stanzas to focus on the true work of the Holy Spirit.

- Are there false teachers in these days who emphasize the work of Christians over the work of God?

Text

This hymn is sung by people the Holy Spirit has already brought to faith in Jesus Christ. All works apart from Christ (especially a so-called decision to believe in Christ) are impossible (see John 1:12; 15:5; and Eph. 2:8–9). As Luther teaches in the Small Cate-

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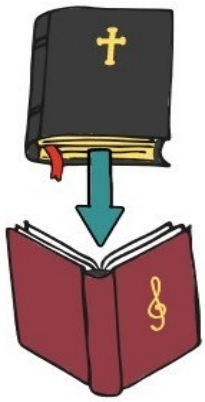
KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What are "rites"?

No, "rites" are not the opposite of "wrongs," though it might sound that way. In the church, rites are the words and texts of the Divine Services and Prayer Offices. **Almost all of the rites in our hymnal are straight from the Bible.**

Why do we use rites?

Rites make up a majority of our worship services. These rites are the written words of our God as they have been given to us in the Bible. In these rites we hear the voice of our Savior, Jesus, proclaiming with His own words His victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. He is giving to us the forgiveness of sins which He won for us when He died on the cross and rose again at Easter. There is nothing better than for Christ's church to worship using such wonderful rites!

Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, discuss the meaning of "rites" with your child. At home, choose portions of the Divine Service and study the purpose of the rites used. Encourage your children to recognize the importance of a worship life grounded in God's Word and Sacraments, which the rites of our hymnal provide. Be sure to ask your pastor if you have any questions.

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Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

UPCOMING 2024

2024

- 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

Congratulations to Our New Confirmands





On Pentecost Sunday, Eloise Fick and Kaden Johnson were confirmed into membership of Christ Lutheran. Eloise is the daughter of Laenie and Jonathan Fick. Kaden is the son of Heather Johnson and Alex Cook. We welcome both Eloise and Kaden into membership.

FISHERS OF MEN

Continuation of "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray"

chism: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith" (LSB, p. 323).

The first stanza is a prayer that the Holy Spirit would keep Christians in the only true, saving faith — the faith in Christ.

- Why do people need the Holy Spirit to be brought to faith in Christ? What dangers in this world tempt Christians to depart from this faith? How does the Holy Spirit defend Christians from leaving the true faith?

Stanza 2 addresses the Holy Spirit as "sweetest Love." The Spirit is the one who makes Christians holy, granting His fire so that we show this love to one another. Read Acts 4:34–35.

- How was the love of Christ, bestowed by the Holy Spirit, revealed in the Church? What can your congregation do for those in need within the Church and for others?

Stanza 3 calls the Holy Spirit "Comfort." In the King James Version of the Bible, He is called "Comforter" by Jesus in John 14:16, 26; 15:26 (some translations use "Helper" instead). Read John 14:18–27.

- Against what does the Church of all believers need comfort? What comfort does the Comforter/Helper give?

Previously we saw from the Small Catechism that the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the true faith. Luther continued by declaring that this Spirit still does these things for the whole Church on earth, keeping her with Jesus Christ (LSB, p. 323). In this Church the Holy Spirit delivers forgiveness with the promise that all believers in Christ will live with Him in eternity.

- How does the final stanza describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church?

Making the Connection

There are many in this age de-emphasizing the work of Christ and His Spirit done in the Word, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; these false teachers deny the very things given by the merciful Lord to the Church for her good.

- Do you look away from the Holy Spirit's gifts in Word and Sacraments and toward your own good (or bad) works? What comfort can be found in the Holy Spirit's gifts of faith and guidance?

- Upon whom shall all Christians rely on the Last Day? Each stanza ends with the cry of the Church, "Lord, have mercy." How is God (through the Holy Spirit) showering you with mercy?

In Closing

We confess: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church," and the like (LSB, p. 323). The Holy Spirit is given so that all would hear and believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation. The Word and the Sacraments are the Spirit's gifts so that people would believe in Christ and be strengthened in that faith by ongoing forgiveness of sins. When you confess the Holy Spirit, you confess the Christian Church, and vice versa. Lord, continue to have mercy on us all and bring us at last to our heavenly home!

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 768.

Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, You fulfilled Your promise by sending the gift of the Holy Spirit to unite disciples of all nations in the cross and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By the preaching of the Gospel spread this gift to the ends of the earth; 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 Pentecost Tuesday).

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES FOR JUNE

6/2/24	Pastor not here	Rev. Iver Persahl
6/9/24	What is your Excuse?	Luke 14:18
6/16/24	Do You Have a Problem With Those Jesus Receives?	Luke 15:2
6/23/24	What is the Log in your Eye?	Luke 6:42
6/30/24	Do you beg Jesus depart?	Luke 5:8

Continued from Pastor Matthew Harris

(Continued from page 1)

Christ as the example for husbands, and the church as the example for wives, St. Paul says: "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32). Every marriage preaches the greater reality of Christ and His bride, the church.

When Adam woke from his deep sleep, he spoke the first recorded words of mankind, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Gen. 2:23). Adam and Eve had common bone and flesh, yet complementary roles and body parts. The man does what the woman cannot; she does what he cannot. Together they are more — much more — than Adam was alone.

I hope and pray we're on the precipice of a cultural watershed moment. Girls won't put up with competing against biological boys in sports for long. Young men are gravitating to churches that hold to the beauty and goodness of biblical complementarity. What we believe and confess is not only true, but also good for human beings. Our young men and women are hungry for what the Bible teaches about men and women, the full and rich beauty of our Lord's creation. They're tired of the dull, gray sameness of egalitarianism.

As I write this, the LCMS Office of National Mission, together with the Recognized Service Organization DOXOLOGY, is hosting a conference titled "Created Male and Female: In His Image." Topics include pastoral care and spiritual support for those whose children identify as transgender, those who suffer with LGBT-related temptations, and families of those who have same-sex attraction. These are real issues, faced by real people in our own churches and families. The church, while upholding God's design for creation, doesn't turn its back on those struggling under the attacks of the devil, the world and their own sinful natures. We continue, as your church body, to look for ways we can provide support and care and to develop resources to help.

So, also, does Concordia Publishing House. For practical advice and real, biblical hope regarding God's design for the sexes, check out three resources: the new book, (*Dis)ordered: Lies about Human Nature and the Truth that Sets us Free*, by my friend and LCMS Fifth Vice-President Rev. Christopher Esget; *Man Up: The Quest for Masculinity* by the Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer; and *LadyLike: Living Biblically* by Rebekah Curtis and Deaconess Rose Adle.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Posted May 1, 2024

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