GOOD NEWS
FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
MAY 2023

FROM PASTOR NIX

This month we will once again have the rite of confirmation for our youth. This year we have three young ladies that will be confirmed. We celebrate in their confirming the faith they were baptized into. The following is part of that service that we may not look at too much. I am printing it here to allow you, prior to the service, to review what these ladies will be promising and what you promised when you were confirmed.

As the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, I would like to thank four entities for bringing us to this event. First and foremost, I thank God for His faithful guiding and protecting His Baptized children. From the time of these ladies' baptism, Satan has been trying to steel them from their God. He has tried twisting God's Word and making the world seem too wonderful to resist. During this time God has used countless ways and tools to protect them, and He will continue doing this until they are with Him in paradise. I would also like to thank this congregation for being faithful to God's word and providing a place of refuge, support, and training for these ladies.

I would also like to thank the parents of these three Christians. They have seen the importance of making sure their children were raised in the true Christian faith. In doing their job as Christian parents, they have modeled faithful attendance at church and proper stewardship of all that God has provided for them.

I would also like to thank these three young ladies. They have all worked hard to complete all the tasks I have given them. They did not neglect their memory work, sermon notes or workbook assignments. They participated in class discussion and showed their understanding of the faith they were baptized into.

I would like you to look at the last questions asked of the confirmands. Both questions ask how seriously they are taking their confirmation. Both questions point out that there is a chance they may die for their faith. We talk about suffering for the faith, but do we honestly think about dying for it? Do the rest of us remember answering those same questions. Do we remember how we answered them? ***I do, by the grace of God***. *By the grace of God is the only way any of us have any hope of staying faithful and having the promise of eternal life. For apart from the graced of God we are condemned to eternal death. So we pray that, by the grace of God, these three ladies and the rest of us continue faithful, even to death.*

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?
R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?
R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

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BIRTHDAYS

MAY

01 Steven Counts
02 Hannah Preheim
10 Jay Holtz
11 Ryan Hericks
13 Ila Edwards
14 Marcie Bent
14 Phill Andreasen
16 Lexie Guenther
17 Sonja Fick
19 Zachary Nix
25 Ethan Hericks
26 Jessie Bent
28 Nicole Doohen
30 Lisa Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

13 Brooks & Alia Robison
19 Luther & Carol Brack
25 Thomas & Tamerha Miller
30 Pr. Matthew & Lynda Nix

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

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

May 7 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter "We were created by a loving God, redeemed by His self-sacrificial act of love, and called to love one another. God loves us; therefore, our life has value. God calls us to love; therefore, our life has purpose. And this, dear friend, is the greatest purpose." *Hannah Nissing, Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 14 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter "This, dear friends, is why Christ's ascension is a good goodbye. Jesus leaves you with everything! He has done it all. The grave is empty. Death is defeated. Life is yours. So, people of God, 'Why do you stand here looking into the sky?' You have an ascension victory to celebrate and an ascended Savior to proclaim!" *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 21 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter "God has chosen each one of us from the beginning of creation. God has also chosen our body to be a temple. He gave us the beautiful gift of a body, and we are called to be stewards of that body, to take care of it and be aware of what we do with it. God also chooses each one of us to belong. We all have a spot and purpose in God's family—and not one of us is useless or random. God chose us with a purpose. Nothing He does is random." *Kambria Steinhaus, Knights 4 Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 28 ~ Pentecost "Jesus became incarnate as embryo, fetus and teenager, infant and adult. In this way He consecrates humankind of all ages, appearances, and abilities. The Good Lord comes close in skin and bone, the same as ours. He remains near with muscle and blood like we have. He humbly bears these sicknesses and gently carries these sorrows of ours. Jesus has crucifix-ed God on you, ever the servant and once-for-all sacrifice. *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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



FLOWER CHART

The 2023 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.

STEWARDSHIP

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD - LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – MAY 2023

FOLLOW HIM IN GENEROSITY

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job's already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart ", as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love "in deed" (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 28, 2023

	02/2023	03/2023	04/2023
Deposits:	$ 16,344.07	$ 19,113.50	$ 30,243.40
Disbursements:	$ 15,320.93	$ 60,198.11	$ 17,541.89
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 14,038.05	$ 18,824.40	$ 25,059.40
Designated Funds:	$ 2,306.02	$ 289.10	$ 5,184.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 15,929.72	$ 15,929.72	$ 19,912.15
Mortgage Balance as of 04/28			$134,654.57

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Lutheran Service Book 556 | study by Carl C. Fickenscher II

Introduction

How does it feel listening to someone talk about himself or herself? Yeah, I know. It can get old fast. Somebody else's vacation pictures. Details of his surgery. Even personal testimony of what Jesus has done in her life. Borrrrrrring! Or worse. Believe me — I know! I remember once when I had to listen to…

On the other hand, there are times when "I" and "me" and "my" are anything but dull — and not at all self-centered. What makes the difference? Let's talk about that (yes, let us talk about that) as we study Martin Luther's "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice."

- What is it about another person's personal story that may become tiresome for us?
- Can you think of examples of other peoples' first-person accounts that you found quite engaging?

Exploring the Scriptures

The Season of Easter carries us from the joy of the resurrection morn, through those 40 days Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples, toward the Ascension of Our Lord, and finally to Pentecost.

Thus, the last couple of Sundays before Ascension Day develop two major motifs, both of which show up in our Hymn of the Day.

First, as we near Jesus' visible departure to heaven, it's a moment to look back on the events of our salvation He has now nearly completed. Psalm 66 invites us to hear about these great events. Read Ps. 66:16.

- One problem: Do we really want to hear the psalmist talk about what God has done for his soul?
- What do you hope the psalmist really means?

Now read Psalm 67. Notice especially verse 3.

- What could cause "all the peoples," rather than just the psalmist, to praise God?
- Any hints you see in the psalm of what God has done for everyone?

Read Ps. 98:1–3.

- Think of the events of Jesus' time on earth. What are some of the "marvelous things" the psalmist might have foreseen Jesus doing? For whom did the psalmist see Him doing these?

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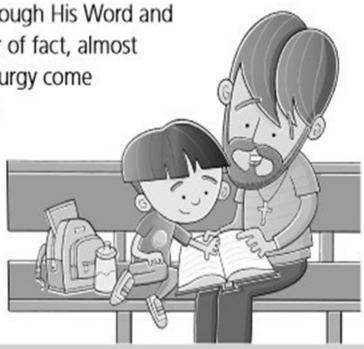
KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the "liturgy"?

Maybe you have heard this word before. The word "liturgy" (pronounced LI-tur-jee) comes from the Greek word "leitourgia," which means "public service" or "divine service." The liturgy is God's service to us through Word and Sacrament.

Why do we use it?

Just as the word "liturgy" means "divine service," God is the one serving us in our Lutheran worship. We are simply responding to Him with thanksgiving and praise. Isn't it wonderful to be involved in worship that has God doing all of the work through His Word and Sacraments? As a matter of fact, almost all of the words in the liturgy come straight out of the Bible! What a great way to worship on Sunday morning!



Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, direct your children to the various services in the hymnal. Encourage use of the liturgy with your family at home. Matins (*LSB*, 219) and Vespers (*LSB*, 229) make for great family devotions.

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UPCOMING

2023

- May 14 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 18 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 11 Voters Meeting
- July 23-27 VBS
- Sept 10 Voters Meeting
- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- 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



Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 14th at 8 am



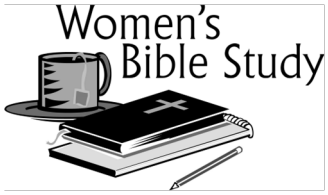
ASCENSION DAY DIVINE SERVICE

Thursday, May 18th at 7pm. Questioning of the confirmands will take place as well.



CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 21st during the Divine Worship Service. Those being confirmed are Leah Preheim, Naarah Fick, and Hannah Meyer



WOMEN OF CHRIST

The Women of Christ will not meet in May due to scheduling conflicts. We will meet on Saturday, June 17th. We will meet at 9 am for Bible Study, coffee/tea, and a light breakfast. After the Bible Study we plan to clean the Church's kitchen. This is open to all the women of Christ. Please think about what you would like to see for our upcoming Bible Studies. We are hoping to get some questionnaires out in the next month or so to see what our women would like to see in a Women's' Bible Study, when people would like to meet, etc. Please watch for, fill out and return when you receive it.

Continuation of Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

The second major motif for these late Sundays of Easter is preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel Readings for these Sundays all come from Jesus' last discourse to the disciples before His arrest. Read John 14:15– 21; 15:9–17; 16:5–15; and 16:23–33.

- What activities of the Holy Spirit does Jesus promise?
- What special names does Jesus use for the Holy Spirit? If your group has different translations, compare how they render one of these names (14:16; 16:7). How does each different rendering express a unique blessing He brings? How precious will these blessings be in light of 16:32–33?

Now look again more closely at 16:13–15.

- What particular activity of the Spirit is described here? Does the Holy Spirit talk about Himself? About whom does He speak? See also John 15:26.
- What sorts of things does the Spirit say about Jesus? Consider, for example, John 15:13. How does He speak about Jesus today?

Exploring the Hymn
Background
"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" was probably the first hymn Luther wrote specifically for singing by a congregation in worship.

- What makes a truly congregational hymn, one to be sung together by dozens or hundreds of worshipers? Should a congregational hymn be one person talking about himself? Why not?

- The original title of "Dear Christians" was "A Christian hymn of Dr. Martin Luther, setting forth the unspeakable grace of God and the true faith." Does that sound congregational? Why or why not?

Text
The congregational character of this hymn is immediately evident in stanza 1. Read it, and remember the psalms you studied a few minutes ago.

- How, apparently, will the hymn summon up the call of Ps. 67:3?
- Where do you see Ps. 98:1 paraphrased?

OK, but what about Ps. 66:16? Well, perhaps surprisingly, this hymn is all about what God has done for "my soul." Read stanzas 2–3.

- How many uses of "I" and "me" and "my" can you count? Pool your knowledge of the life of Luther to discuss how well these stanzas fit his story.
- So, is this hymn all about Luther? If so, singing it could mean our congregations are idolizing him.
- Who else fits this description? Read Rom. 3:9–20. Read, too, something Luther wrote in the Small Catechism: "Which are these [sins we should confess]?" (LSB, p. 326). Whoever we are, whatever our station in life, we are this one sinner Luther describes!
- Is this what makes a first-person account compelling — that it in fact applies to every individual?

What, then, has God done for my soul — for every soul? Read stanza 4.

- Imagine that! God had me in mind even before He created the world! See 2 Tim. 1:9. We can all say that!
- How precious am I to Him? What did He give for me?

Everything God has done for me is now laid out in stanzas 5–9. Read through the familiar story — but notice the very personal way it's told.

- Where do you see each of these passages reflected in the stanzas: 2 Tim. 1:10; Gal. 4:4–5; Phil. 2:5–8; Ps. 46:1, 7, 11; John 15:13; 17:6, 10, 21; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:24–28?
- Which words in these stanzas are especially sweet to you? Consider "compassion"; "my brother"; "A servant's form, like mine"; "To lead the devil captive"; "close to Me"; "rock and castle"; "Your ransom I Myself will be"; "For I am yours, and you are

Continues on page 7

Continuation of Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Mine"; "The foe shall not divide us"; "for your good"; "My innocence shall bear your sin." What others are special to you?

- Is this first-person story self-centered?

And now, like these Sundays of the Church Year, we reach the end of Christ's story. Or do we? Read stanzas 9–10.

- Which of those functions of the Holy Spirit does the hymn recall? Remember John 16:13–14, 33. Of whom, again, does the Spirit speak?
- How does the Spirit see to it that Christ's story continues? For whom is His personal story now?

Making the Connection
So, Luther's story is our story. More important, Christ's story is our story.

- No need to talk about yourself out loud right now, but take a moment to talk to God silently about who you are and what you've done under the Ten Commandments, as Luther reminded in stanzas 2–3.
- Then — and this you surely will want to do aloud together — talk about why all of us dear Christians can rejoice at hearing Christ tell again what He has done for us. As you discuss, consider silently what it means that the sins known only to you and God have been forgiven by Christ.

In Closing
Hearing someone else talk about himself can indeed be thrilling if his story is one in which we also see ourselves. A hymn is properly congregational if it vocalizes the experience of all the worshipers. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice! And rejoice to sing! Because what Christ has done personally, individually, for Luther, He has done personally, individually, for you!

- Sing or read aloud together all 10 stanzas of LSB 556 — with joy!

Prayer
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, because of Your tender love toward us sinners You have given us Your Son that, believing in Him, we might have everlasting life. Continue to grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may remain steadfast in this faith to the end and finally come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (For steadfast faith, LSB, p. 311).

(Continued from page 1)

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
R *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?
R *Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
R *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
R *I do.*

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
R *I do.*

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, even to death?**

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and **to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?**

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

Secretarial Position Available

The voting assembly of Christ Lutheran approved the hiring of a paid office assistant. The position will require a maximum of 10 regular office hours per week.

Responsibilities will include developing, printing, folding of church communications (ie. bulletins, newsletters, reports), answering phone calls, updating and

maintaining various church records, and generally assisting the pastor as needed. At this time, we are opening this position to members of the congregation.

Excellent verbal and written communication skills with attention to detail are necessary.

Interested parties should contact Paul Schilf at 605-376-0981 or via email at pauls@popplersmusic.com

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