GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2024

FROM SYNOD

On June 5, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison wrote a pastoral letter to the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor (CUWAA). The full text of the letter is now being made publicly available. Read more about the letter and CUWAA

Commemoration of Boniface of Mainz, *Missionary to the Germans*, A.D. 2024

June 5, 2024

Dear Regents,

Grace and peace in Jesus.
I want to share a few thoughts as you move forward with the challenges of the Ann Arbor (AA) question. Forgive the lack of formality in this missive. I'm in Iowa tending to my elderly parents this week.

First, I am totally sympathetic to the Michigan District's shock and concern over the future of the Ann Arbor campus. To be informed that an institution with record enrollment is not viable as currently constituted was a terrible and disappointing revelation. Their skepticism is completely understandable. And to be fair, the rollout of the information could have been done differently. But these are matters of the law, and such matters can always be critiqued. None of us is Jesus.

Second, I had our CFO evaluate the numbers, in consultation with some of the best financial minds in the CUS system. He concluded that the financial challenge to both institutions is very real, and strong measures are required to guarantee the future.

Third, I recognize after speaking at some length with Dr. Ankerberg that there are philosophical issues/differences on the nature of sustainable Lutheran education at AA.

Fourth, I acknowledge that CUW/AA leadership have been sorely and publicly slandered in a way that caused deep pain and offense. And most of that slander has, honorably, remained unanswered.

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BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

01 Lynette Wedeking
04 Basil Wetzel
10 Emily Nix
13 Andrew Brack
13 Jenny Brack
25 Elva Clauson
29 Dr Raymond Hartwig

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

07 Jon-Eric and Sarah Deutsch

BAPTISM

06 Daniel Nix
19 Leah Preheim
21 Rick Guenther
23 Naarah Fick
23 Mason Hericks
27 Jeremiah Deardoff
30 Andrew Brack

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Past and Present

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hosted by
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thewordendures.org

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Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

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LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

September 1, 14th Sunday after Trinity ~ "May we all faithfully live out our sojourn on this earth, however long it may be, in anticipation of the New Creation, the end of our earthly sorrows, and our final Resurrection of body and soul to live with our Lord in righteousness and purity forever." *Deaconess Bethany Stoever, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 8, 15th Sunday after Trinity ~ "Let us never forget and continue to trust in God as our only resource when we face difficult life issues. Continue to pray for our country as some leaders continue to pursue making laws that jeopardize precious lives and challenge God's plan for life. Let us put our trust in God, not man." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 15, 16th Sunday after Trinity ~ "I pray that you will recognize and value those people in your life who were blessed by God so they could be a blessing to you! I especially pray that you will then use the blessings God has bestowed on you to bless those around you and to pass these blessings on to your own descendants to a thousand generations. Now is the time to pass on the gift. Now is the time to pass the baton to the next runner in the race! To God be all the glory!" *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

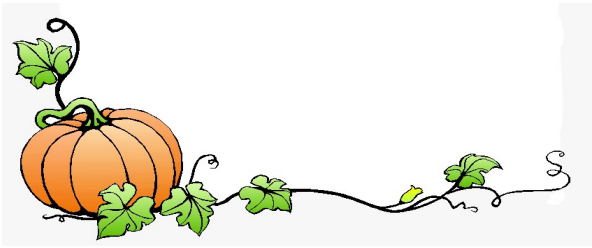
September 22, 17th Sunday after Trinity ~ "All of us who die in Christ are going to come up like cherry tomatoes in July—'a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb' (Revelation 7:9b). I'll be there, and so will you, all of us celebrating the Lord who loved us and gave Himself for us—He who died like a single seed falling into the earth, and now 'bears much fruit' (John 12:24b)." *Dr. Kari Vo – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

September 29, St. Michael & All Angels ~ "When we engage in the political process, we as Christians rightfully assert these rights, knowing that in doing so we are defending not only or even primarily ourselves, but our neighbors … By asserting the right to life, and to other natural rights, we are in fact confessing God's given order." *Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, Concordia Theological Seminary – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Sacred Music

lutheranpublicradio.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused



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

Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. "Garbage in, Garbage out." In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788). Its first verse reads:

> Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
> For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
> For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
> While of Your richer gifts we're unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

(Continued from page 1)

Fifth, in spite of all this, it is my continued plea that AA not be closed, that as many programs as possible be retained at the AA campus, and that the campus be maintained, looking toward future growth. This has been my consistent plea with CUW/AA leadership.

I have tried not to meddle. I did seek a consultation with Concordia, St. Paul, but with the approval of Dr. Ankerberg. I know that the responsibilities in this matter are squarely in the hands of the Board of Regents.

It is my sincere prayer that in this challenging situation the Lord will bless in a way that is finally a great benefit to CUW/AA and our beloved Michigan District, which is so vital and important to the life of the Synod.

In Christ Jesus,
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
August 30, 2024

	06/2024	07/2024	08/2024
Deposits:	$ 19,889.62	$ 11,315.36	$ 9,528.20
Disbursements:	$ 35,526.21	$ 27,899.61	$ 13,646.78
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 19,884.62	$ 11,284.61	$ 9,354.20
Designated Funds:	$ 5.00	$ 30.75	$ 174.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 21,234.00	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 08/30			$ 58,226.71



IN OUR PRAYERS

Bonnie Ellis recovering from a hip replacement
Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health and healing
Susan Powell, recovering from a fractured leg
Elva Clauson, recovery at home



RALLY DAY

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 8th. Sunday school begins on Rally Day. There will be a Voters' Meeting instead of the Adult Bible class. Adult Bible Study will begin the following week. Everyone is invited to a potluck dinner after Sunday school. Hot dogs and brats are provided, please bring a dish to share. Following the meal, there will be a time of activities for the children, including bounce houses, both wet and dry.



VOTERS' MEETING

The 3rd Quarterly Voters' Meeting will meet after church during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, September 8th. There will be no Adult Bible Study due to the meeting. We will have a Pot Luck Dinner after the meeting.



POTLUCK DINNER

Get out your favorite recipe and bring it along with your appetite to our annual Rally Day Potluck meal. We will share a meal and fellowship after the Sunday School hour and Voters' meeting. There will be fun kid activities after the meal. Please come and join us.

Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

Lutheran Service Book 522 | study by Thomas E. Lock

Introduction

For this feast of the church year Martin Luther preached:

> Now, you have often heard that the devil is around people everywhere, in palaces, in houses, in the field, on the streets, in the water, in the forest, in fire; devils are everywhere. All they ever do is seek man's destruction… . Against such a malicious, spiteful, cunning enemy, who is continually hounding us, God has appointed the beloved angels, to keep watch so that where the devil suddenly comes and strikes with pestilence, with fire, with hail, and the like, an angel is there to counter it. (Eugene F. A. Klug, ed., Sermons of Martin Luther [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000], 7:375–76)

- The devil and his demons are angels who sinned against God (2 Peter 2:4). With what power or might can people defend themselves against the evil spirits? What hope is there for Christians?
- Are there events that have happened which reveal the destructive power of the devil and his crew? How have angels guarded people from such evil?

Exploring the Scriptures

Who, or what, are angels? It is a common fallacy that angels are Christians who have died and been taken to heaven. As we will see, they are spirit beings who are in heaven alongside God and His saints.

- Read Matt. 18:10, a portion of the Holy Gospel for this day. Who protects Christians? Where are they? Whose face do they see?
- Read the Epistle for this day, Rev. 12:7–12. What took place? Who was the leader of the angels? In Job 1:6–12 we see that Satan had access to heaven even after his fall into sin. But at Christ's death and resurrection, what took place according to Rev. 12:9? Where do Satan and his demons now reside? Why should heaven rejoice and earth fear at his descent?
- Read Rev. 7:9–14. Besides the angels, who are present around the heavenly throne?
- Who will judge the angels? The answer is given in 1 Cor. 6:2–3. How then is it possible for saints to become angels? Doesn't the fallacy of saints becoming angels actually diminish the standing of saints?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) was Luther's right-hand man during the Reformation. Born as Philipp Schwartzerd in 1497, he was given the name Melanchthon (which is Greek for "black earth," the meaning of Schwartzerd in German) by one of his teachers, Johann Reuchlin.

Melanchthon was highly intellectual, even in his youth, having earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1511 and his Master of Arts degree in 1514, when he was sixteen years old. In 1518 he accepted a call to teach Greek and literature at Wittenberg University. At Wittenberg he trained generations of men how to be theologians through his compilation of texts under subject headings known as Loci communes theologici. Melanchthon also gave the Church three of the Lutheran Confessions, later contained in the Book of Concord, namely, the Augsburg Confession (1530), the Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1531) and the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (1537).

Melanchthon published this hymn in Latin in 1543. Since it was in Latin, the hymn was to be used at the university and by the educated. In 1554 Melanchthon's friend and colleague, Paul Eber, made a German translation from this Latin text so that it could be sung by the uneducated as well. Finally, this hymn came to us in an English translation by Lutheran pastor Emanuel Cronenwett, published in 1880.

- Why was it important for the Latin version to be translated into German and, eventually, into English?

Text

Stanza 1 of our hymn for today is a general thanksgiving to God for the angels, based on Ps. 103:20–22 and Matt. 18:10. The remainder of the hymn explores why Christians thank God for these angels.

Stanzas 2 and 3 speak of the nature of these angels of God.

- When Jesus spoke of the angels in Matthew 18, He was speaking from His own knowledge as God, and as He revealed in Ps. 34:7. Read Ps. 34:7. How is that verse like the lines in stanza 3, "Their whole delight is but to be / With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to

Continues on page 6

keep / Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep"?

Stanzas 4–6 sing of the one against whom the angels need to defend the saints.

- Read Eph. 6:10–12. How are the evil angels portrayed in verse 12?
- Read 1 Peter 5:8–9. How is the devil described? What does he seek?
- Read stanza 5 of our hymn. Against whom is the deceiver of old fighting?
- Read Rev. 20:1–2. Who is the dragon being bound? Who does the binding?

Stanzas 7 and 8 conclude Melanchthon's hymn.

- Read the final two stanzas of the hymn. Who defeats our foe? What are Christians to do in return for this blessing?

Making the Connection
Luther included Morning and Evening Prayers in his Small Catechism. Both of these prayers include the sentence, "Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me" (LSB, p. 327).

- Whom does God appoint to guard you from dangers of body and soul? Have you ever had a time when you might have been injured or even died, but you escaped all harm? Explain what happened.

Luther preached:

> [God] does at times permit us to experience such [evil and harmful attacks], that we might learn, if God were not there [with his angels] all the time preventing their occurrence, they would happen continuously; and for this reason we ought to pray all the more diligently and thank God for such protection. (Sermons of Martin Luther, 7:376)

- Have there been occurrences in your life in which one can see God's withholding of the protection by the angels? Why would such a loving God allow terrorist attacks to occur in the United States and other countries?

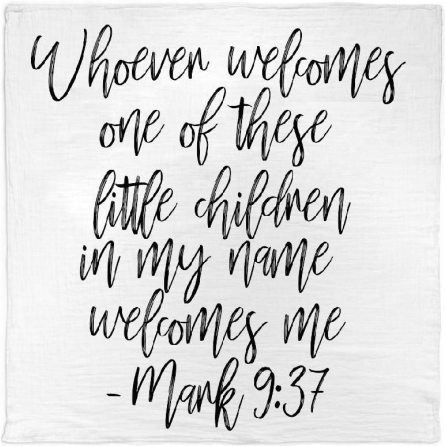
In Closing
Why do Christians celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels? Luther summed it up nicely in one of his sermons on this day:

> This feast commemorating the angels has been placed in the church's calendar for the sake of our young people, or more correctly, for the sake of all Christians, so that they might train themselves to think about the beloved angels and thank God for appointing these mighty lords to be his servants for us. (Sermons of Martin Luther, 7:374–75)

Thanks be to God for appointing these ministering spirits (Ps. 104:4 and Heb. 1:7).

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 522.

Prayer
Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect St. Michael and All Angels).





KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What are "rubrics"?

A rubric (pronounced ROO-brik) is a direction for conducting a service. The word "rubric" comes from the Latin word rubrica which means "red chalk." Can you guess which words in our hymnal are the rubrics? If you guessed those words written in red, then you are right! They are red to make them look different from the words of the service.

Why do we use rubrics?

We all need directions so that we know what to do. **Rubrics offer direction to the pastor and the congregation during the service.** For example, the rubrics may tell us which page to turn to next. The rubrics may even tell us when to stand and when to sit. Rubrics help to keep everything in good order during the Divine Service. What wonderful tools the rubrics are!

Parents:
Take a few moments before or after worship to look at the different rubrics in the hymnal, then choose a few to discuss. Why are they so important? How might the directions which they give be helpful to us? How do they prepare us for the Divine Service?

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All of our students should be back in school at this time. Please lift the Students, their teachers, administrators, and schools in your prayers.

UPCOMING 2024

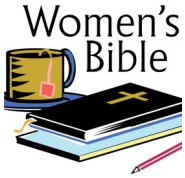
2024

- Sept 08 Rally Day and Potluck meal
- 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

CHURCH CLEANING:

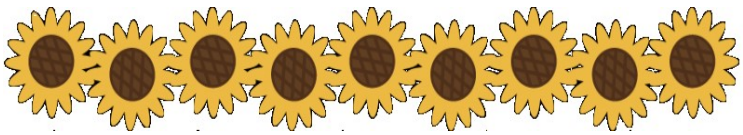


We are asking for our members to come help clean up the church inside and out on Saturday, Sept 14th from 9am – Noon. If you are able, please bring your favorite cleaning tools, that way we can get more done in the time allotted. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, contact Lisa Johnson, Barb Wetzel, Lynette Wedeking or Monica Andreasen.



WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN

We will begin meeting again monthly for Bible Study and Fellowship. We will meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. We begin to meet on October 12th as we will be meeting this month to clean the church. Please check the Narthex for a copy of the monthly study as we get closer to the date. This is an open invitation to any woman of Christ Lutheran. If you have any questions please see Lisa Johnson.



Sermon Text and Titles for September

September 1st, Proverbs 4:10-23 Psalm 119:9-16 Galatians 5:16-24 St. Luke 17:11-19	***"What Separates You from Jesus?"***	***St. Luke 17:12***
September 8th 1 Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Galatians 5:25-6:10 St. Luke 18:9-14	***"Does Your Master Make You Anxious?***	***St. Matthew 6:24-25***
September 15th 1 Kings 17:17-24 Psalm 30 Ephesians 3:13-21 St. Luke 7:11-17	***"Jesus Has Compassion for You Also"***	***St. Luke 7:13***
September 22nd Proverbs 25:6-14 Psalm 2 Ephesians 4:1-6 St. Luke 14:1-11	***"How Proud of Your Humility are You?"***	***St. Luke 14:11***
September 29th Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 Psalm 91 Revelation 12:7-12 St. Matthew 18:1-11	***"Angels Among Us?"***	***St. Matthew 18:10-11***

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