GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2024

FROM PASTOR NIX

I would like to thank Christ Lutheran Church for your willingness to celebrate with my family and me and without us.

Within a two week period of time we welcomed a new son-in-law and a new daughter and celebrated the graduation of another of our children. Almost without exception the members of Christ have encouraged us, prayed for us and asked how they can help. For anyone that has experienced any of these events in their own family, you know the joy and exhaustion that each one brings on its own, much less all three. The fact that so many people in our family of faith have been there for us has reminded us that as children of God, He will always provide what we need.

In that same period of time the women of Christ gathered for a ladies' brunch. Many of the ladies of our congregation gathered to be fed both spiritually, physically. They studied God's Word, ate and had a time of fellowship. This all happened as my family and I were out of town. This brought joy to me seeing our people wanting to go through with plans even when they found out the pastor and the ladies of his family were not able to attend (we were invited).

Over the past few months we have seen much more activity here at Christ and God willing we will see even more as we continue to live as God's people, enjoying the blessings of our church family and wanting to share the love of Christ with those around us.

In Christ,

Pastor Nix



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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

BAPTISMS

MAY

06 Alia Robison
17 Cherie Zehendner
22 Hannah Preheim
23 Duane Ellis
25 Jordan Brack
29 Lynda Nix

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

Sacred Music 24/7

lutheranpublicradio.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

May 5 – Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ "The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven." *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 12 – Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ "Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let's partake in the blessing of proclaiming God's truth and putting Christ's love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!" *Pastor Michael Salemink – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 19 - Pentecost ~ "Go to church together and get God's message into your ears, into your life, into your relationships. And the Spirit who created you and recreates you into the best version of yourself, that self that God has in mind for you, will work in your relationship and make it into one that is life-giving. But married or single, divorced or twice-divorced, widowed, brokenhearted, or thriving, we all live in the echo of Easter: Christ is risen. Indeed. Alleluia. We walk in the power of Pentecost. Alleluia." *Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

May 26 – The Holy Trinity "May God send an army of angels to protect the babies in the womb from the laws being enacted in some states that are taking away protections for God's smallest, most vulnerable humans. May hearts be changed with the truths found in Scripture. And may the influence the devil has on our society, with his culture of death, be deposed." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, 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 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.

STEWARDSHIP

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD - LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – MAY 2024

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

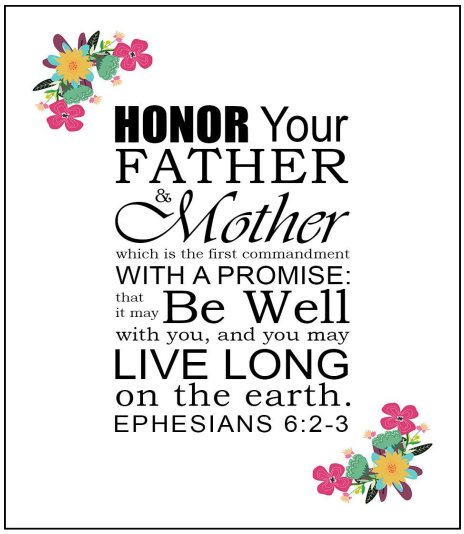
But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

> You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
>
> *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.





CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 25, 2024

	02/2024	03/2024	04/2024
Deposits:	$ 14,533.25	$ 34,978.31	$ 18,633.46
Disbursements:	$ 19,067.32	$ 13,833.29	$ 15,272.69
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 14,341.50	$ 24,662.31	$ 14,567.84
Designated Funds:	$ 191.75	$ 10,316.00	$ 4,065.62
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00	$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 04/25			$ 66,675.89

Women's Brunch

We hosted the First Annual Brunch for the women of Christ and their guest(s) on April 20th. We had 30 women attend. There was a lot of good food, some fun mixers, and a devotion. Here are a few pictures from the brunch.









KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is a "canticle"?

The word "canticle" (pronounced KAN-ti-kle) comes from the Latin word "cantus," which means "song." A canticle is a song based on a text from Holy Scripture. What could be better than to sing praises to God with the words He gives us?

What's the difference between a canticle and a hymn?

Hymns and canticles both put God's Word to music. You'll know you are singing a hymn when all of the verses are sung to the same melody. You'll know you are singing a canticle when the verses continue without repeating the melody. What glorious variety our Lord gives in the Divine Service!

Parents: The best way to differentiate between canticles and hymns is to look and listen. Usually the "songs" in a hymnal are appropriately designated as a hymn or a canticle. Help your children to compare the differences. You can see and hear the differences. Point out the differences and discuss the words. Take a look at the texts in the Bible that have inspired the canticle or hymn.

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UPCOMING

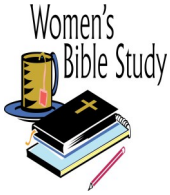
2024

- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 12 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 19 Confirmation of Confirmands
- 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



ASCENSION DAY DIVINE SERVICE

Thursday, May 9th at 7pm. Questioning of the confirmands will take place as well.



WOMEN OF CHRIST

The Women of Christ will May 11th for our Bible Study of Women of the Bible. This month we will be studying Ruth. All women of the congregation are welcome. Copies of the Bible study are on the credenza in the Narthex if you'd like to look over before the 11th.



Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 12th at 8 am



CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 19th during the Divine Worship Service. Those being confirmed are

?????????

Our Father, Who from Heaven Above

Lutheran Service Book 766 | study by Bruce E. Keseman

Introduction

Dad walks into the house at the end of the day. His daughter runs across the room, jumps into her father's lap and exclaims, "Daddy, Daddy, listen to what happened to me today! Oh, but first would you help me, Daddy, 'cause I can't ride my bike by myself. I need you. And Daddy, I heard that a bad man attacked a little girl yesterday, so I'm scared. But I'm not scared when you're with me. Thank you for being here for me."

From the Small Catechism, read the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer and its meaning (LSB, p. 323).

- How does the story above help you understand what prayer is? In what ways might the story be inadequate to explain fully the privilege of prayer?
- What is your earliest memory of praying the Lord's Prayer? Who taught you to pray it?

Exploring the Scriptures

Read Luke 11:1–4, part of today's Gospel.

- What request do the disciples make that leads Jesus to teach them — and us — the Lord's Prayer?
- What differences are there between the words here and the words of the Lord's Prayer that you learned? Are any of the differences significant?

Now read Luke 11:5–11. Jesus' story isn't teaching us to pester God until He gives us what we want. Instead, His point is that if an ordinary man will give even to an "impudent" begging neighbor, how much more is our loving Father willing to give to us, His dear children, everything that we need. So, ask away!

- How might the promise in verses 9–10 affect how you pray?

Finish reading today's Gospel, Luke 11:11–13.

- Do even not-so-wise parents try to do what is bad for their children? Then what does Jesus' story teach us?
- What does Jesus call us in verse 13? Why? For what might that truth lead you to pray?
- Our Father not only wants what is best for His children, but, unlike the rest of us parents, He also knows what is best for His children and always does what is best for us. How might that certainty affect the way you pray?
- Why might Jesus particularly teach us to ask God for the Holy Spirit in verse 13? The catechism's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed (LSB, p. 323) may provide some hints.

Exploring the Hymn

Background

Martin Luther (1483–1546) wrote "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" to help us understand the Lord's Prayer. He also wrote hymns to teach other parts of the catechism: the Commandments (LSB 581), the Creed (LSB 954), Baptism (LSB 406) and the Sacrament of the Altar (LSB 617).

Stanzas 2–8 of "Our Father" each explain the meaning of a different petition of the Lord's Prayer. So, singing this hymn is like singing the catechism! Luther and the reformers often used hymns to help plant the truths of Scripture into the hearts of the people.

- Educators say that we retain information that we sing better than information we speak. Why do you think that might be? How do you think that should affect the way we teach young Christians?
- Most of us agree that it is important for sermons to be doctrinally pure. Since we retain what we hear sung longer than we retain what we hear spoken, is it even more important for what we sing in worship — and for what our children sing in Sunday school — to teach nothing but the truth? Explain your answer.

Text

In your LSB, place ribbons at page 323 (the Lord's Prayer section of the catechism) and hymn 766, so that you can turn back and forth. Then read the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer and stanza 1 of the hymn. Notice that the catechism emphasizes that God is our Father, while the hymn emphasizes that He is our Father, that is, it focuses on our unity as one family.

- In what ways are each of those emphases important?
- How might each of those emphases influence your

Continues on page 7

prayers?

Read Rom. 8:14–17. It says the Holy Spirit teaches us that we are God's children and heirs.

- How does your Baptism make it possible for you to call God "Abba," that is, "Daddy"? What does He give you as an inheritance?
- How might understanding God as "Daddy" alter the way we pray?

Now read the meaning of the First and Second Petitions and stanzas 2–3 of the hymn.

- Can we make God's name holy? What are some ways you can treat His name as holy?
- What connection is there between the First Petition and the Second Commandment (LSB, p. 321)?
- What is God's kingdom?
- How are you made a citizen of God's kingdom? Look at Luke 12:32 and Rom. 10:17.
- What is God's will for you and all people? See 1 Tim. 2:3–6. How does God accomplish His will in our lives?

Read stanza 5 and the Fourth Petition, where Jesus teaches us to ask God to supply our earthly needs.

- Look at everything the catechism and hymn call "daily bread." How might you be prevented from eating a slice of bread if God didn't provide all those gifts? Consider everything necessary to permit a farmer's grain of wheat to grow and then be harvested, milled, processed, baked, distributed and bought so that you can eat that bread.
- In what ways can you express your thanks to God for supplying your daily bread?

Now read stanzas 6–7 and the Fifth and Sixth Petitions.

- What would happen to our prayers if Christ had not given His life for the forgiveness of our sins?
- What does the Fifth Petition teach us to do when it is difficult for us to forgive someone?
- Why do we need to pray, "Lead us not into temptation"? What are we asking God to do?
- How does our Lord rescue us when we are tempted? (For examples, see 1 Cor. 10:13 and Eph. 6:13–20.)

Read the Seventh Petition and stanza 8 of the hymn.

- In what way can this petition be called a summary of the entire Lord's Prayer?
- Why might Luther teach us that "a blessed end" is the ultimate way God delivers us from evil? How does 2 Tim. 4:18, which was probably written by Paul from the equivalent of death row, assure you as you pray and as you live?

Finally, read stanza 9 and the Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer.

- What does "amen" mean?
- How are Jesus' death and resurrection essential for you to be able to say "amen" with confidence?
- How can you be sure that your prayers are pleasing to God and that He will answer them?

Making the Connection

The Lord's Prayer is a model prayer, that is, Jesus uses it to teach us to pray (Luke 11:1–4). So, for each petition of the Lord's Prayer, write at least three things for which the petition prompts you to pray. For instance, "Our Father" might cause you to thank God for your Baptism, "Thy kingdom come" could lead you to ask that God protect missionaries as they speak Christ's kingdom-expanding Gospel, and "lead us not into temptation" might prompt you to ask for help with a specific temptation in your life.

In Closing

- Look back at the story of the father and daughter at the beginning of this study. In order to better teach what prayer is, how might you change the story? How could the story better show how important Jesus' death and resurrection are to your prayers?
- Sing or read aloud together LSB 766.

Prayer

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be attentive to the prayers of Your servants, and by Your Word and Spirit teach us how to pray that our petitions may be pleasing before You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for Proper 12C).

Sermon Text and Titles for May

May 5th, **TBA** **TBA**

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-9
James 1:22-27
St. John 16:23-33

May 9th ***"Does Jesus Rebuke You?"*** St. Mark 15:14

2 Kings 2:5-15
Psalm 110
Acts 1:1-11
St. Mark 16:14-20

May 12th ***"What Has Jesus Told You to Keep You From Falling Away?*** St. John 16:1

Ezekiel 36:22-28
Psalm 51:1-12
1 Peter 4:7-14
St. John 5:26-16:4

May 19th* ***"Do You Love Jesus?*** St. John 14:23

Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 143
Acts 2:1-21
St. John 14:23-31

May 26th ***"Have You Been Born Again?"*** St. John 3:3

Isaiah 6:1-7
Psalm 29
Romans 11:33-36
St. John 3:1-17

* - Confirmation

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