January 2025

GOOD NEWS

From Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church
4801 E. 6th St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Phone: 605-338-3769
Web: christsiouxfalls.org
Member: Issues, Etc., 300
Pastor: Matthew Nix

FROM THE PASTOR

When things don't go as planned, we often panic and wonder why? Over the past month we have been without our organ. With the help of pianos, an extra amp and speakers and talented musicians we made it through and now that we have the organ up and working again everyone is breathing a sigh of relief. I have to admit, there were more than one conversations that leaned towards the "why now?". Of all the time to be without the organ Christmas, really?

The why of this incident was in part age and in part, we may never know. But whatever the reason, it was good to see people sharing and trying to help with the problem. Most importantly it was good to see how we did not let it interfere with our gathering for worship. We continued to share God's Word and His Gifts. We continued to encourage each other as the solution to the silent organ worked its way out. Whatever the reason (and I will pray it doesn't happen again) it helped us to focus on the reason we gather here at Christ Lutheran.

Another time when things seemed not to go as planned was with the birth of Jesus. Who could have imagined God's only begotten Son being born in a barn laid in a feed trough and then having to flee for His life to Egypt. Let alone, ending up dead on a cross at the hands of His own people.

Who could have imagined it? God Himself. This was the plan that was laid out before the foundations of the earth were laid. This was the only way that your, mine and all sins could be forgiven. Jesus couldn't have come any other way. He had to fulfill all righteousness so he could forgive all sin.

In the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus we see that God's ways are far above ours. Whatever the reason, it was God's reason and because of it we are now able to gather in worship sharing God's Word and receiving His Gifts

In Christ, Pastor Nix

Voters Meeting, Jan 12, 2025 after Divine Service

CONTENTS

January Birthdays & Baptisms 2
Life Quotes 2
2025 Church Officers 2
LCMS Stewardship Ministry 3
Treasurer's Report 4
In Our Prayers 4
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Workshops 4
The Only Son of Heaven Study 5-6
Kids in Worship 7
Upcoming 7
Sermon Text and Titles 8
Calendars ..... *Insert*

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

09 Jaenine Na Kirindo
09 Oliver Ruguruza
10 Michael Grooms
18 Vickie Britson
19 Addie Wetzel
26 Samuel Counts

JANUARY BAPTISMS

09 Carol Brack
24 Michael Grooms





CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
4801 E. 6TH ST.
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110
605-338-3769
CHRISTSIOUXFALLS.ORG
MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300
PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

LIFE QUOTES

January 5, Christmas 2 ~ "Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God's child in the peace of Jesus." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 12, Baptism of Our Lord ~ "From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), God's began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 19, 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany ~ "No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

January 26m, 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany ~ "Babies are born into the world wrapped in surprising packaging like disabilities or poverty, but even so, God has a perfect plan for each one of them. Abortion is a tragic end to the countless blessings in store for those who would have surrounded these children." *Brad Mattes, Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OFICERS 2025

Installation of Church Officers will be held Sunday, January 12, 2025. The officers are:

President: Luther Brack
Secretary: Alan Kludt
Finance Secretary: Pastor Phil Andreasen,
Assistant: Dustin Preheim
Treasurer: Marty Johnson
Elders: Jay Holtz, Les Britson, & Dan Munson
Trustees: Andrew Brack, Dustin Preheim, & Carl Deardoff



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article ~ January 2025

'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 27, 2024

	10/2024	11/2024	12/2024
Deposits:	$ 13,907.25	$ 18,439.62	$ 29,704.61
Disbursements:	$ 19,163.85	$ 14,769.15	$ 15,046.81
,			
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 13,700.25	$ 15,856.62	$ 23,722.61
Designated Funds:	$ 207.00	$ 2,583.00	$ 5,982.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 16,987.20	$ 16,987.20	$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 12/27			$ 49,620.64



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BROOKINGS WORKSHOPS

- **Denominational Differences:** Join us for a training that will teach about the denominational differences among the Reformed, Evangelicals, Roman Catholics, Mainline and Progressive Christians. The training will be taught by Eli Kosse, and Elder at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church 629 9th Ave.; Brookings, SD on January 18th from 8:30am – 4pm. There will be a catered lunch and no cost to attend. Training is open to all congregational members.

- **LGBTQIA(NSWERS):** (Higher Things Retreat) What do you do when people you know announce they identify as part of the LGBT community? What do you do when you start questioning who God has created you to be? We live in a world of darkness and confusion that needs the light of Christ. But how do we faithfully bring the light of Christ? This retreat will dig into the how we ended up her culturally, what Scripture has to say about these topics, and how to live in Christ despite the confusion and suffering that surrounds us. Pastor Merritt Demski will lead this workshop on Sunday, January 19 6pm – Monday 20th 3pm at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church 629 9th Ave.; Brookings, SD It is for High School and College Students, the cost if $40 per person.

More information is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested in either workshop. You would need to register for either of the workshops by January 10th.

The Only Son from Heaven

LSB 402 | study by Todd A. Peperkorn

Introduction

In Gen. 15:5 God promised Abraham that his offspring would be like the stars in the heavens. This promise did not come immediately. Abraham and Sarah had to wait for many years before their first son, Isaac, was born. In this hymn we see the story of the brightest star of Abraham's offspring, Jesus Christ, who fulfills all the prophecies of the coming Messiah, and who brings us faith and trust in Him in all our times of need.

- Can you think of any examples in history or in your life where the coming of a child brought with it great promise?
- Why does the coming of a child mean new beginnings in so many ways?
- When is the first time in the Scriptures that God promised to send Jesus? Why did He make the promise?

Exploring the Scriptures

Stanza 2 of this hymn gives us the opportunity to explore the question of God's timing. Read Eccl. 3:1–8, where the preacher speaks about how there are times appointed for nearly everything in our life. These seasons or times demonstrate to us that God is the one who orders everything in our lives, and that these things happen in His way and time.

- If there is a time for everything under the sun, does that mean we have no choices in our lives, in how things turn out? Why or why not?

Read Gal. 4:4–7, where St. Paul teaches us how God's timing in sending Jesus had to be just right (the "fullness of time"), so that His holy purposes might be fulfilled.

- What are God's holy purposes?
- How does that help us to understand God's role in the individual happenings of our life within the context of God's plan of salvation?
- Why does Paul call us all (men and women alike) "sons"? What is the relationship between that and Paul calling us heirs?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

This hymn holds many distinctions. It is one of the earliest Lutheran hymns, as it was written around 1524, right about the time that Martin Luther began in earnest to revive the hymnody of the Church. Hymns from that period are well known for being substantive, and this one is no exception.

- Why do you think it would have been so common to have heavily doctrinal hymns during the early period of the Reformation?

The author of our hymn was a woman, Elisabeth (Meseritz) Cruciger (1500–1535), an ex-nun from Rega who married a theologian named Caspar Cruciger in 1524. She and her husband became close friends of Martin and Katherine Luther, and could often be found around the Luther dinner table. Given her age and the times in which she lived, it is nothing short of amazing that Luther and his colleague, Kantor Johann Walter, approved this text for the earliest Lutheran hymnals.

- What does this fact tell us about how Luther and others viewed the writing of hymns in their day? What could this teach us about encouraging poetry and hymn writing in our circles today?

The hymn was not included in The Lutheran Hymnal of 1941, but was reintroduced in the Missouri Synod with its inclusion in Lutheran Worship in 1982. It has slowly but steadily gained acceptance and popularity in our circles since that time.

- Think of some of the other new hymns that you have learned over the past five years. Why did you learn them? What is good about learning new hymns? What is the danger in learning new hymns?

Text

Cruciger wrote this hymn in two parts. The first part encompasses stanzas 1 and 2, which are packed with Scripture references and teaching about God's purpose in sending His Son. Notice how they hold up so many different doctrines or teachings about Christ, such as His relationship to the Father, His prophetic life, the incarnation, His kingship, the virgin birth, God's work in destroying death, opening heaven and

Continues on page 6

eternal life.

- Is this too much to take in with one hymn, or does this teaching emphasis give us more reasons to come back to the hymn year after year? Why?
- What would be a way that a hymn like this could be used in Sunday School or at home to teach the faith?

The second part of the hymn is stanzas 3 and 4, which move from a teaching mode to more of a prayer. Notice what exactly we pray for in stanza 3: to love God more, to stand unshaken in faith and to adore God in spirit. Also note how we receive glimpses of heaven here which we pray would "reap its fullness" hereafter.

- What is the glimpse of heaven to which the author refers?
- Why must the Lord awaken our hearts to do these things?

The final stanza is a doxological stanza, that is, a hymn of praise to the Holy Trinity. There is a sense in this stanza that we stand in worship adoring God, and that we are suddenly surrounded by the angels who sing "Holy, holy, holy" with us! The threefold "holy" is from Is. 6:3, where the angels surround the throne of God and sing that the whole earth is filled with God's glory.

- Where in the Divine Service do we sing "Holy, holy, holy"?
- Why would our hymn writer want to make the connection between the worship on earth and the worship in heaven?
- How does it change our view of worship to know that we sing and pray and receive God's gifts "with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven" (Lutheran Worship [Concordia Publishing House, 1982], 146)?

Making the Connection "

The Only Son from Heaven" ties the birth and epiphany of our Lord to how God is present with us in the Divine Service. How would the following phrases make these connections for us now?

- "He comes, the king anointed, The Christ, the virgin-born."
- "To open heav'n before us And bring us life again."
- "That we, through this world moving, each glimp

In Closing

God gave Abraham a promise that the Son would come in His time and way, and that the entire world would be blessed through Him. The Son has come, and continues to come to us now in the Divine Service. God shows Himself to us week after week, year after year, to give us life, to rescue us from death, and to give us a glimpse of heaven itself.

- Sing or read together LSB 402, "The Only Son from Heaven."

Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; 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 the Second Sunday after the Epiphany).



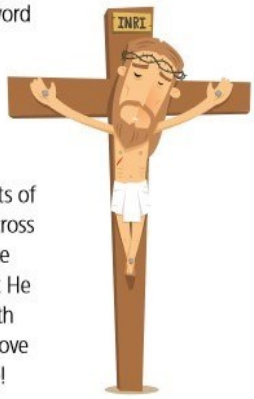
KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

A great big word of love.

A word that you often hear used in the church is the word "redemption" (pronounced ree-DEMP-shun). All of the events in Jesus' life work together to form God's plan of redemption.

What does "redemption" mean?

The word "redemption" is a very important word used to describe what Jesus has done for us. Redemption comes from the root word "redeem" which means "to buy back." God's plan of redemption was His plan to buy us back from sin, death and the power of the devil. This all happened when Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law perfectly and died on the cross in our place. He payed the high price for sin, and He bought us back! But He didn't stop there. He overcame death for us and rose from the dead to prove it! What a great Redeemer we have!



Parents:
What our God has done for us in Jesus reflects the Fatherly love He has for all people. As parents, we share this love with our children through the means our Lord has provided: Word and Sacrament. This is where we receive the real fruits of redemption.

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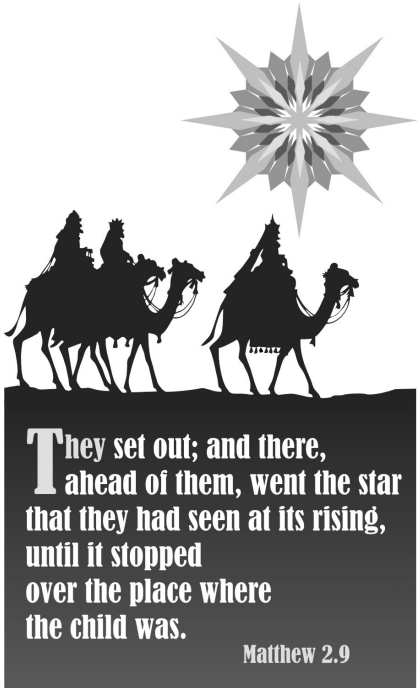

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025

- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm
- Jan 12 Installation of Officers and Voters Meeting
- Mar 05 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 09 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 09 Voters' Meeting
- Mar 12, 19, 26 April 02, 09 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- 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
- May 11 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 29 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 08 Voters Meeting
- July 20-24 VBS
- Sept 07 Voters Meeting
- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 3 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 6 decorating Tree 10am & Caroling to shut-ins to follow
- Dec 07: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec 10, 17 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 15 Children's Christmas Service, 4pm
- December 24 Christmas Eve service, 5pm
- December 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service



And having come into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary. And falling down, they worshiped Him. And opening their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

Sermon Text and Titles for January

January 5th	***" The Child Grew"***	**St. Luke 2:40**
	Hymn of the Day: ***" Within the Father's House"***	**LSB 410**
	1 Kings3:4-15	
	Psalm 119:97-104	
	Ephesians 1:3-14	
	St Luke 2: 40-52	
January 6th	***" So It is Written"***	**St. Matthew 2:5**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"Within the Father's House"***	**LSB 410**
	Isaiah 60:1-6	
	Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15)	
	Ephesians 3:1-12	
	St Matthew 2:1-12	
January 12th	***"He Preached Good News"***	**St. Luke 3:18**
	Hymn of the Day: ***" To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"***	**LSB 406**
	Isaiah 43:1-7	
	Psalm 29	
	Romans 6:1-11	
	St Luke 3:15-22	
January 19th	***"The Wine Ran Out"***	**St. John 2: 3**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"The Only Son from Heaven"***	**LSB 402**
	Isaiah 62:1-5	
	Psalm 128	
	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	
	St John 2:1-11	
January 26h	***"When They Heard These Things"***	**St. Luke 4:28**
	Hymn of the Day: ***"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"***	**LSB 839**
	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	
	Psalm 19:(1-6) 7-14	
	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	
	St Luke 4:16-30	

