NOVEMBER 2023

GOOD NEWS from Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church
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Member: Issues, Etc., 300
Pastor: Matthew Nix

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Issues, Etc.
Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian
www.issuesetc.org

Sacred Music 24/7
lutheranpublicradio.org

Lutheran Doctrine: Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused

From the Pastor

Children of the Heavenly Father.

All children are a blessing from God. Each time a new life is created we see the loving, creating hand of God at work. Over the last year and a half many have celebrated some of those lives that may well have been snuffed out before they ever had the chance to take their first breath. What will those lives that not long ago may not have made it, now be able to accomplish? This Advent we are going to look at children of the Heavenly father that should not have survived or even been conceived, yet they were used by God to accomplish amazing things. Our God is able to create miraculous outcomes from situations that seem to be hopeless. But isn't that what He does with us each day? We are in a hopeless situation, sinners sinning each day, much! Earning the wages of sin. Yet God says to us again and again that we are Children of the Heavenly Father. We have been adopted through miracle of Holy Baptism. Our sins have been removed. We have been marked with the cross on our heart and our head. We have been washed clean in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We have been given the gift of eternal life. We will look at five children of the Heavenly Father and how that Father used them to establish and fulfill His promise for us. These five are by no means the only children God has or will use to share His gift of salvation with the world. As we look at these five, think of those you know that God has and continues to use to share His gifts with the world around you.

In Christ, Pastor Nix

Voters Meeting, Dec 10, 2023 after Divine Service

Our Prayer for a Blessed November Anniversary to:

09 Erik & Lula Arlton

Our Prayer for a Blessed November Birthday to:

01 Helen Kriz
07 Michaela Nix
10 Lexie Johnson
13 Mildred Corey
18 Duane Ellis
19 Ian Nix
21 Erik Arlton



THANKSGIVING DIVINE SERVICE
Thursday,
November 23rd,
at 9:30 am



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home
Lisa Johnson, health issues/wellness
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson at home
Helen Kriz, Bethany Lutheran Home, Brandon

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

November 5, All Saints Day - "Our comfort and motivation do not derive from laws. We neither live only according to the body nor labor for this world alone. No matter who holds office or how they decide and lead, the Lord our God reigns." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 12, 23rd Sunday after Trinity - "What could be more joyful and rewarding than to share with everyone the best news they will ever hear: Jesus has saved you from sin and death and won eternal life for you as a free gift of His love. Let's roll up our sleeves and begin today with the prayer, 'Lord, help me be an eager worker in Your kingdom.'" *Daily Devotions, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 19, 24th Sunday after Trinity - "For it can be easy on Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things, thankful for what we are and have, but thankfulness in faith cries out to God, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!' and falls on its face at Jesus' feet, giving thanks to Christ." *Rev. Cody Cooper, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

November 26, Last Sunday of the Church Year - "Being For Life is right in line with God's plan of creation! YOU are the missing element that is needed! Don't be satisfied to sit back and wait because now is the time! Don't stop praying as you ponder your next step. Ask God for His guidance and be ready for more than you asked for, as we have a loving and merciful God who loves life. Please consider being a part of a life-affirming ministry in your congregation. Help protect lives and serve God in this special calling." *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

If you are in need of a ride to and from the church building, please contact Pr. Nix or one of the elders: Paul Schilf or Les Britson

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

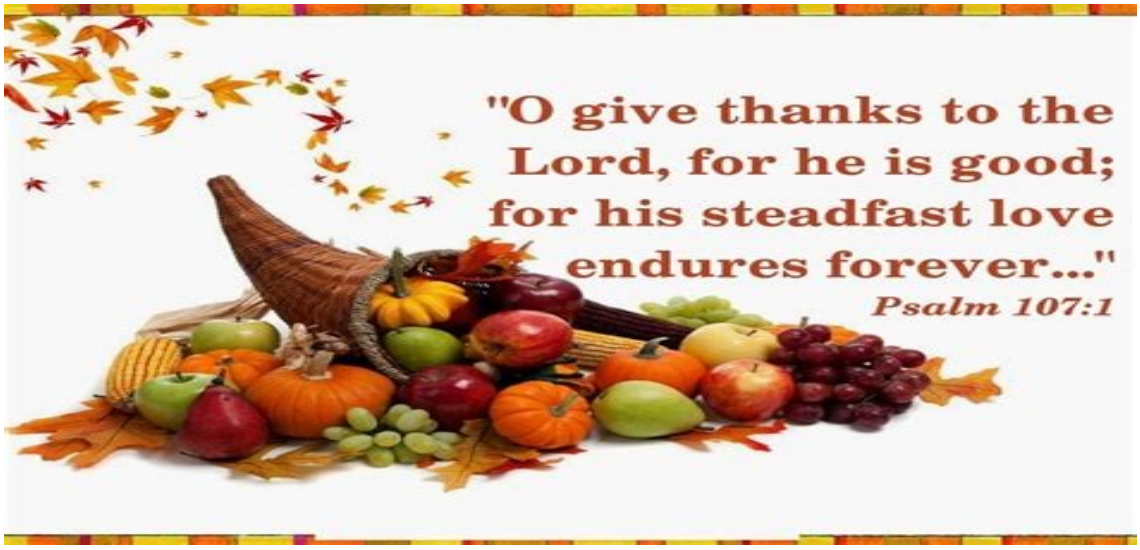
Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
October 26, 2023

	08/2023	09/2023	10/2023
Deposits:	$ 11,760.41	$ 9,796.40	$ 21,445.55
Disbursements:	$-15,665.86	$ 13,685.62	$ 19,650.63
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	$ 6,419.16	$ 9,727.40	$ 17,018.55
Designated Funds:	$ 5,341.25	$ 69.00	$ 4,427.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	$ 15,929.72	$ 15,929.72	$ 19,912.15
Mortgage Balance as of 10/26			$ 79,378.65

SERMON TITLES AND TEXTS FOR NOVEMBER

November 5th	***"Everyone!!!"***	1 John 3:3
	Revelations 7:14:6-7	
	Psalm 149	
	1 John 3:1-3	
	St Mathew 5:1-12	
November 12th	***"Many Walk as Enemies!"***	Philippians 3:18
	Proverbs 8:11-22	
	Psalm 111	
	Philippians 3:17-21	
	St Matthew 22:15-22	
November 19th	***"Do You Walk in a Way That is Worthy?"***	Colossians 1:10
	Isaiah 51:9-16	
	Psalm 126	
	Colossians 1:9-14	
	St Matthew 9:18-26	
November 23rd	***"Does All Really Mean ALL?"***	1 Timothy 2:1-2
	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	
	Psalm 67	
	1 Timothy 2:1-4	
	St. Luke 17:11-19	
November 26th	***"Build One Another Up!!"***	1 Thessalonians 5:11
	Isaiah 66:17-25	
	Psalm 149	
	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	
	St Matthew 25:1-13	



In the Very Midst of Life

Lutheran Service Book 755 | study by Scott R. Schilbe

Introduction

We don't have to look too far beyond ourselves and our loved ones to understand that death surrounds us. The pressures of feeling age limiting our bodies or of seeing our loved ones mentally or physically decline burden us with feelings of hopelessness. We feel hopeless because we can do nothing to escape the situation. Our bodies, not to mention the natural disasters we witness through television and the Internet, point us to the reality that the present world is fading away. We truly are living in the midst of death's vale.

Today's hymn, "In the Very Midst of Life," forces us to confront living in a sinful world, while also providing assurance that our holy and mighty God is the only one who eternally saves us from it.

- In your life, do you feel that the "Pow'rs of hell" (st. 2) overtake you? How?
- To what refuges do you think people turn in times of need? Are these refuges outside the Church?

Exploring the Scriptures

In the Bible are many accounts of individuals who felt death surrounding them and their families.

- Read Luke 7:1–10 and Mark 5:21–43. In each account, identify the person feeling burdened and the serious situation that was faced.
- According to 2 Cor. 1:8–10, for what beneficial purpose can God use our burdens?
- How does Heb. 2:14–15, 18 help you when you struggle with sin and death "In the very midst of life"?
- How does a faith that rests on Jesus speak in situations of apparent despair and tragedy? Read Lam. 3:22–33.
- Despite the unpleasant reality of living on earth, what eternal hope do Is. 51:11 and Rev. 21:1–4 offer you?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

According to tradition, stanza 1 existed before Martin Luther (1483–1546) wrote stanzas 2 and 3. These two additional stanzas clearly confess the Christian's refuge during gloomy times of life: Jesus and His mercy.

Discuss how Luther's call to take refuge in the holy and all-merciful Savior becomes more personal after reflecting upon the following significant situations of Luther's life:

- His conflicts with the Roman Catholic Church and the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire after posting the Ninety-five Theses, conflicts resulting in his condemnation after the Diet of Worms.
- Luther's family tragedies, especially living under the threat of deadly disease in 1527, and enduring the death of two daughters, Elisabeth in 1528 and Magdalena in 1542.

Text

This hymn provides interesting ways of describing death. In stanza 1, death is described as an enemy, a snare eager to trap us into fear and despair. However, repentant of our sinfulness, we flee to the only hope, the only holy God. Because of our holy and merciful Savior, we have nothing to fear.

- How did Noah witness the snare of death surrounding him? Read Gen. 7:21–24.
- How did God deal with Noah's environment? Read Gen. 8:1.
- How did Noah react to his situation? Read Heb. 11:7; Gen. 8:10.

In stanza 2, death is portrayed as a valley through which we currently walk.

- How do the famous words of Ps. 23:4 help you realize that "death" is much more than the moment of physical death?

Continues on page 7

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Do Lutherans honor and remember the saints?

Yes. Remembering and honoring the saints is very "Lutheran." God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions teach that remembering and honoring the saints is a great thing to do.



Why is it such a great thing to do?

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, which explains what Lutherans believe, teaches that we honor the saints for three reasons. (1) Thanksgiving. When we honor the saints, we thank God for "showing (his people) examples of his mercy, revealing his will to save men, and giving teachers and other gifts to the church." (2) Strengthening our faith. When we see how our Lord forgives the saints, we are "encouraged to believe that grace does abound more than sin."(Do you remember when Peter, one of the disciples, denied Jesus three times? Even the Apostles sinned and received forgiveness.) (3) "the imitation, first of their faith and then of their other virtues …" We pray that God would keep us as strong in the faith as they were!

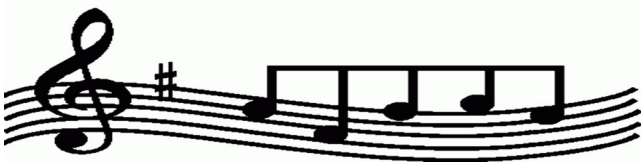
Parents: Explain to your children that we are not praying to the saints; we are simply honoring them on a special day in the Church Year. Remind them that, when we die, we will be with our Lord in heaven, which is where the saints are right now!

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Church Choir



There is some interest in the congregation to restart the church choir. The discussion has centered around not only singing for the Holidays, but possibly singing one Sunday a month. Please let Pastor know if you would be interested in singing, accompanying, or even directing.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

- Nov 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Nov 29 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 06, 13, 20 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 10: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- 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

2023

- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Feb 21, 28, Mar 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 10 Voters Meeting
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- Mar 29 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- Mar 31 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- Mar 31 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- Mar 31 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 09 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- May 12 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- 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

Continuation of: In the Very Midst of Life

- What, according to Paul, is the source of this "vale" (Rom. 8:20; Rom. 5:12)? Who is your hope while living in this vale (Rom. 5:15–17; Ps. 23:4)?

In stanza 3, death is portrayed as utter woe. Again, Luther indicates that death is more than physical death; it is utter devastation.

- Contemplate times of your life when you've felt deeply distressed.

- Briefly review Jesus' passion. How did Jesus Himself experience utter woe and devastation? For what reason did Jesus experience it?

Making the Connection

As you examine the hymn, note that each stanza begins by sounding the realistic note of despair, yet each stanza ends by clearly pointing the singer to the merciful Savior. In this way, the hymn text parallels our natural feelings when confronting a crisis. It first gives voice to our hopelessness but then provides needed focus by pointing to Jesus.

The hymn guides us as we cope with suffering either in our lives or in the lives of others. It guides us to Jesus and to His atoning work. And it also guides us to repent of our fears and to cling to the ways in which God preserves us. Examine these two hymn phrases and discuss the related questions.

- "We mourn that we have greatly erred" (st. 1). In what ways do you express your contriteness over sin?

- "Lord, preserve and keep us / In the peace that faith can give" (st. 3). By what means does God preserve you in the faith?

- Choose a perp

In Closing

Indeed, we constantly endure the sadness of living in a sinful world. This hymn helps us confront that reality, while at the same time it helps us look beyond that reality and cling to Jesus. Our holy and righteous God does show His mercy to us and saves, preserves and keeps us!

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 755.

Prayer

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen (Hope of eternal life in Christ, LSB, p. 313).





USHER NEEDED

If you are interested in being an usher, please let Pastor Nix or Lisa know. We are going to put together a new schedule for the next year; somehow the past schedule got messed up. We would like to have 3 people on the list for each month. Even if you are already on the list, please let us know if you are okay with staying on the list or if there are times of the year that won't work for you. Thank you!

When we listen to the sermon, we ask three simple questions:

1) How often is Jesus mentioned? [Keep a tally.]
2) If Jesus is mentioned, is He the subject of the verbs? [Is Jesus performing the verbs?]
3) What are those verbs? (The Gospel **isn't** Jesus your example, educator, life–coach [encourage-or] or therapist. The Gospel is Jesus, your crucified and risen Savior from sin and death.)

— A Listener's Guide to the Pulpit (Updated)
by Pr. Todd Wilken [https://bit.ly/2ZCjeCx]

IN GRATITUDE

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.