

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



January 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

I would like to thank everyone for helping out this year. We have had people help with adding music to our worship service. The organ, piano, bells, vocals and other instruments along with people to lead have received wonderful comments. Those that have helped in the Sunday school, adult and Ladies Bible studies and VBS help to share God's Word with those here and when we leave the walls of our church those out there. The flowers, paraments and the sacrament preparation do not happen on their own. Our Advent an Lenten meals have had more people helping, providing and eating. There have been a number of people helping with cleaning up both inside and outside the church.

God has truly blessed Christ Lutheran with members who enjoy helping in a variety of ways. He has also blessed me with members willing to step up when needed.

You have truly been a joy to my family and me. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2026.

In Christ,
Pastor Nix

IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home
Susan Powell, at home
Elva Clauson, at home
Denny Tellinghuisen physical rehab
Bryan and Kanie Nelson's new Granddaughter, Ashlyn
Pastor and Lynda Nix's new Granddaughter, Eleanor

Vocal and Bell Choir

Choir practice will start up again Wednesday, January 14.
Bells at 6:30pm
Vocal at 7:00pm

Voters Meeting, Jan 11, 2026 after Divine Service

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

09 Jaenine Na Kirindo
09 Oliver Ruguruza
10 Michael Grooms
12 Kelly Clare
16 Bernardt Ewoldt
18 Vickie Britson
19 Addie Wetzel
26 Samuel Counts

JANUARY BAPTISMS

09 Carol Brack
24 Michael Grooms

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

30 Bryan and Kandie Nelson

LIFE QUOTES

January 4 “Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.”
Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

January 11 “A baby is God’s opinion that the world should go on.”
Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

January 18 “Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16).”
Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

January 25 “The One who gives us our new beginning in Baptism is the same God who fashioned us and gave us our first beginning in the womb. It is God who brings forth life. It is God who created us, who ‘knits us together,’ so that we are ‘intricately and wonderfully made.’ Some say that the Bible never mentions abortion, and thus we should not speak against it. How far from the truth! The decisive moral truth of what Scripture teaches is this: Human beings are such from fertilization. And—it is a sin to shed innocent blood.”
Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Issues, Etc.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

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MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300

PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX



**Lutheran Doctrine:
Christ-Centered,
Cross-Focused**



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article ~ January 2026

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning.

Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love

Lutheran Service Book 764 | study by Paul J. Cain

Introduction

Pearl Harbor. 9/11. These events are etched in history as well as the hearts and minds of those who lived through them or suffered the consequences of those attacks. The Holy Gospel for the Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Matt. 2:13–18, speaks of a very specific act of violence in and around Bethlehem, aimed at our Lord Himself. Read this text and then answer:

- Who was the real target of Herod’s attack?
- Who were the “Holy Innocents?”
- Of what other modern situations does this text remind you?

Exploring the Scriptures

Read 2 Cor. 1:3–11.

- What is the initial message of verses 3–5? How can we still bless God in the midst of afflictions? How do we comfort others?
- Why were Paul and the other apostles and pastors afflicted? How is short-term suffering beneficial for the long term?
- In what ways do we/can we support those suffering from persecution for being Christian or preaching Christ?

Read 1 Peter 2:21–24; 4:12–19.

- When we suffer we can identify more with Christ’s sufferings. Why is it helpful to know that we are not alone in our suffering?
- How is Christ our example in enduring suffering?
- How is Christ completely unique in His suffering for us and our salvation?
- How is the suffering described in 1 Peter 4:12–14, 16 different from the suffering described in verse 15?
- Why are we given to rejoice when falsely accused or during another kind of trial or time of testing?
- How does the 1 Peter 4 text ground our temporal struggles in an eternal “big picture?”

Read Ps. 9:9–10, or the whole psalm if there is time.

- Why is it important that the Lord is dependable, unchangeable and trustworthy in times of trouble?

Now consider the appointed Psalm of the day, Ps. 54:1–7.

- Psalms are not always happy songs, but reflect a variety of human emotions. How could this help during a time of sorrow and loss?
- What can we do when we sometimes “don’t have the words,” when we are in emotional pain or when we don’t know what to say to other hurting people?
- Where do we find hope, vindication, salvation and forgiveness? Read the appointed Second

Reading for Holy Innocents, Rev. 14:1–5.

- How does the joy of the redeemed contrast with our sometime sorrow in this “valley of the shadow?”

Exploring the Hymn Background

This hymn on loss was occasioned by real-life loss. Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931) was struggling with her father’s decline and death due to Alzheimer’s disease as well as her own vision concerns due to macular degeneration.

She had recently received correspondence from two other hymn writers who were struggling with violence and shootings in their communities. [Carl] Daw sent me [Patterson] a commentary on a hymn when God says, ‘No,’ and we have to struggle with what the answer is.”

A version of the hymn was adapted for an Oklahoma City memorial service following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995.

- If God answers the prayer of His Christians, and He does, what does the author mean by “when God says, ‘No’?”
- How is the physical suffering of disease different from emotional pain? War? Terrorism? A mine collapse? How are these consequences of living in a fallen world similar?

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

- After contemplating your own mortality, does the Lutheran theology of the cross make more biblical and practical sense to you?

Text

Focusing on both random violence, one of the many ills plaguing modern society and other times of loss, this hymn seeks to point the grieving individual to the steadfast mercy and all-sufficient grace of God.

Found in LSB's section "Hope and Comfort," Patterson's hymn comforts the mourning and troubled with the presence of the Son of God. The hymn draws the singer in by evoking hard memories of "aimless violence," "random death," and "wrenching loss" affecting us, our loved ones, and especially young people, echoing, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5).

The robbing of "sight and strength and mind" (st. 2) will evoke thoughts of blindness, Lou Gehrig's disease and dementia, as well as Jesus weeping before raising Lazarus and His compassion for the mute, deaf and blind in His earthly ministry.

- Why is it comforting that Jesus is true man in addition to being true God?
- How could familiar prayers, hymns and liturgical texts and songs be helpful in pastoral care to those with Alzheimer's disease or dementia?

Faith sustained during times of trial is the theme of stanza 3, reminding us of Jesus strengthening bruised reeds and igniting merely smoldering wicks. Weak or strong, faith is still faith, holding on to Christ for dear life and into eternal life.

Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, is able to sympathize with us in our weakness because He "knew agony and loss" (st. 4). He abides with us to the end of the age.

- When we suffer, why is it so comforting that Jesus is able to sympathize with us?
- Compare God's testing of our faith to the devil's temptation in times of "agony and loss."

Patterson wrote a four-stanza hymn on Jan. 22, 1992. A letter from the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod encouraged Patterson to write a fifth, final stanza as a prayer to the Lord for help in time of need.

The new concluding stanza (5) is a prayer for strengthened faith. It is a lament-filled request to God for "help," "To trust Your grace," "To rest our souls," and to "find our hope within Your mercy sure."

- Why is this a more theologically satisfying conclusion to the hymn?
- What would singers have missed without stanza 5?

Making the Connection

Martin Luther contrasted the theologian of the cross with the theologian of glory, finding hope, comfort and solace in who Jesus is and what He has done for us instead of the hidden things of God.

- How is the theology of the cross more biblical than a theology of glory?
- How is the theology of the cross more realistic and practical than a theology of glory?

In Closing

This hymn for times of loss could well have been inspired by the historic problem of the high infant/childhood mortality rate, a medieval plague outbreak, or the "plague" of cancer or juvenile diabetes. A car accident today has much in common with the overturning of a Conestoga wagon on the Oregon Trail, as the sinking of a ship on an Atlantic crossing is comparable to an airline crash.

While inspired by the problems God's people face in the modern world, this hymn will remain relevant for centuries to come because of its generic, universal language, ready to be filled with specific challenges of disease and violence of each new day.

- Read or sing together LSB 764, "When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love."

Prayer

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Collect for the Holy Innocents, Martyrs).

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
December 30th, 2025**

	<u>10/2025</u>	11/2025	12/2025
Deposits:	\$ 7,846.00	\$ 18,103.55	\$ 45,076.66
Disbursements:	\$ 14,405.89	\$ 31,206.41	\$ 34,315.47
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 7,818.00	\$ 18,045.53	\$ 40,462.66 Desig-
nated Funds:	\$ 28.00	\$ 58.02	\$ 4,614.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 17,793.08	\$ 22,241.35	\$ 17,793.08
Mortgage Balance as of 12/30			\$ 23,176.95



Welcome

Phill and Monica Andreasen have been members of Christ since 2020. They have been married 52 years and have raised 7 children. Their oldest son, an adopted Canadian Cree Indian has sadly passed away. The remaining 6 children are all married and have blessed them with 18 grandchildren.

A life of service in the church has been their great joy! He was very busy not only in the parish, but also on the district level. She managed a very busy household, entertained members and hosted many church gatherings. Phill has enjoyed golfing, hunting and being the main worker for multiple home remodeling projects through the years. Monica enjoys all things home and has been the supervisor of those home improvement projects.

Having moved many times, each place has left them with an appreciation for all of the wonderful people in the family of Christ.

To the members of Christ Lutheran church,

A blessed new Year to each of you. We pray with you, that the Lord has great things in store for us in the new year as we continue to grow through Word and Sacrament increasing our faith, and drawing us closer to him by His Spirit. May we boldly share the Good

News that is our in Christ Jesus!

As we are away from you during this time our thoughts are not far from you. While we have been embraced by the warm, loving saints here in Huron. We give thanks to our dear friends at Christ Lutheran and prayers lifted in our behalf. We look forward to our return.

+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
 DIVINE SERVICE**
 + + +

What is a "Gospel Procession"?

You may sometimes see the Gospel reading take place in a different part of the church. On special Sundays, the Bible is carried into the center of the congregation where the pastor reads the Gospel to the people. There may also be some festive music or singing. After the reading, while the Bible is being carried back to its place, there may be more music and singing. This ceremony is called the Gospel Procession.

Why do we have a Gospel Procession?

Jesus is the living Word. He set us free from the burden of sin through His life, death and resurrection. A Gospel Procession reminds us that this wonderful news is to be carried into the whole world. Jesus came for all people and He offers eternal life to all who believe by the power of the Holy Spirit! Wow! A Gospel Procession is a wonderful thing!



Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, remind your children of the meaning of the Gospel Procession. When it is taking place, point out the reverent way the pastor, crucifer, and/or assistants move. Reverence and humility are shown to the One who is truly among us declaring the Good News of forgiveness of sins by His Word! Read John 1:1-3, 14 and discuss it with your children. How is Jesus described in this reading?



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UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm
- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 7pm
- Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 Midweek Lenten service, 7pm (Dinner prior)
- Mar 08 Daylight Savings Time Begins, 2am
- Mar 08 Voters' Meeting
- April 02 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- April 03 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- April 05 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- April 05 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- April 05 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 10 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 14 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 14 Voters Meeting
- July 19-223 VBS
- Sept 13 Voters Meeting
- Nov 01 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 2 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 5 decorating Tree 11am & Caroling to shut-ins to follow
- Dec 13: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec 9, 16 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 20 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



They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2.9



And having come into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary. And falling down, they worshipped 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 4 th	<p><i>“The Favor of God Was upon Him”</i> Hymn of the Day: <i>“Within the Father’s House”</i> 1 Kings 3:4-15 Psalm 119:97-104 Ephesians 1:3-14 St Luke 2: 40-52</p>	St. Luke 2:40 LSB 410
January 6 th	<p><i>“Not Everyone wants to Worship Jesus”</i> Hymn of the Day: <i>“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”</i> Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15) Ephesians 3:1-12 St Matthew 2:1-12</p>	St. Matthew 2:8 LSB 395
January 11 th	<p><i>“Do you try to prevent Jesus?”</i> Hymn of the Day: <i>“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord”</i> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Romans 6:1-11 St Matthew 2:13-17</p>	St. Matthew 3:14 LSB 406
January 18 th	<p>Hymn of the Day: <i>“Built on the Rock”</i> Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 118:19-29 2 Peter 1:1-15 St Mark 8:27-9:1</p>	Pastor Daniel Deardoff LSB 645
January 25 th	<p><i>“Does what you've left compare?”</i> Hymn of the Day: <i>“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”</i> Acts 9:1-22 Psalm 67 Galatians 1:11-24 St Matthew 19:27-30</p>	St. Matthew 19:27 LSB 611

**INSTALLATION
OF CHURCH
OFFICERS
JANUARY 4**

The officers are:
President: Luther Brack
Secretary: Alan Kludt
Finance Secretary:
Pastor Phil Andreasen 2024
Assistant: Dustin Preheim
Treasurer: Marty Johnson 2025
Elders: 2023 Jay Holtz
2024 Dan Munson
2025 Les Britson
Trustees: 2023 Andrew Brack,
2024 Carl Deardoff
2025 Jason Clare

Wise men
still seek
HIM

