

GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2026

South Dakota 12th Grader Wins Lutherans for Life National Essay Contest

by Jill Johnsen

A South Dakota high school senior was announced the winner of the national Lutherans for Life Essay contest, marking the first time a South Dakota participant has won the national award. Olivia Brown of St. Paul, Spearfish, received first place in both the South Dakota Lutherans for Life essay contest and the national contest. Olivia's essay competed in a field of 15 states and was declared the winning essay in the 9th-12th grade category. Olivia will receive a check for \$700 and a certificate. A video of Olivia reading her essay will be shown at the Lutherans For Life Fundraising Gala in September in Des Moines, Iowa.

Winners of the South Dakota Lutherans for Life essay winners were announced in April. They are:

6th to 8th grade category

First Place - Joy Drevlow, St. Paul's, Aberdeen

Second Place - Kendall Johnsen, Faith, Sioux Falls

9th to 12th grade category

First Place - Olivia Brown, St. Paul, Spearfish

Second Place - Lydia Brown, St. Paul, Spearfish

There is very strong competition for this contest and Olivia has been entering and winning the South Dakota contest since middle school. South Dakota winners received \$500 for first place and \$250 for second place

VOTERS MEETING — JUNE 7, 2026 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

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BIRTHDAYS

June

- 02 Thomas Miller
- 07 Tom Clauson
- 09 Hadessah Na Kirindo
- 11 Cody Cook
- 11 Evan Schroeder
- 17 Barb Wetzel
- 18 Grace Counts
- 18 Amanda Miller
- 22 Michael Deutsch
- 23 Pastor Matthew Nix
- 23 Shannon Deardoff
- 24 Amanda (Brack) Fiddler
- 27 Kim Lorenzen

ANNIVERSARIES

June

- 01 Cody and Nicole Doohen
- 11 Carl and Shannon Deardoff
- 13 Victor & Lynette Wedeking
- 15 Tom and Elva Clauson
- 15 Dustin and Stephanie Preheim
- 18 Jay and Jodie Holtz

BAPTISMS

- 01 Ryan Hericks
- 10 Victor Wedeking
- 13 Zachary Nix
- 20 Dustin Preheim
- 23 Cody Cook
- 26 Steve Counts
- 27 Gracie Counts
- 28 Nicole Doohen
- 30 Elva Clauson



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www.issuesetc.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

June 7 “Remember that our Savior was born into a human household ... He is our Friend, our Brother, He will help us in our time of need, especially when we seek Him out in God’s Word and fervently in prayer. As you relate to others in your home, ask God’s Holy Spirit to give you wisdom in difficult situations, mercy in abundance when forgiveness is needed, and love to cover all your family’s interactions.” *Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, former speaker of “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 14 “It is important for each of us that we not forget how our country came to be an independent nation. It’s even more important that we individually remember how dependent we are upon God’s provision, protection, and blessing for those liberties we daily enjoy and use. Take the time to turn to the Lord with a thankful heart. Pray also for the willingness to share in the responsibilities and duties that belong to you as a citizen of the United States of America.” *Daily Devotions, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 21 “Committed, present, and selfless fathers are the antidote to the culture that has embraced abortion. If we want to end abortion and restore a culture of life, then we need men to embrace fatherhood. We need to take on the great mission, the life-long quest of courage, servitude, and faith. So, let’s cheer on fathers for the amazing work they do. They’re shaping the future, one day at a time, with God’s love as their guide.” *Jeff Gunnarson, Campaign Life Coalition – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 28 “God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of ‘my power is made perfect in weakness’ (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights.” *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

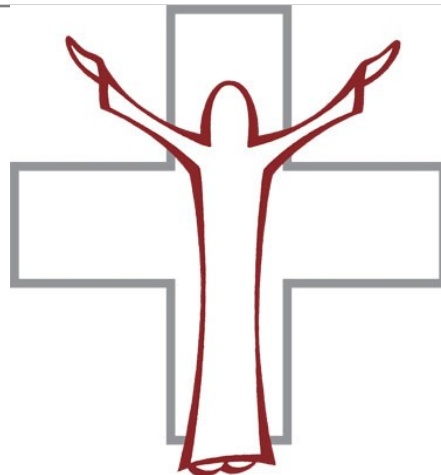
Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
April 29th, 2026**

	02/2026	03/2026	04/2026
Deposits:	\$ 22,362.52	\$ 15,519.65	\$ 42,260.49
Disbursements:	\$ 20,515.87	\$ 26,499.76	\$ 15,854.20
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 19,362.52	\$ 15,276.65	\$ 37,160.49
Designated Funds:	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 5,100.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 18,514.28	\$ 23,142.85	\$ 18,514.28
Mortgage Balance as of 04/29			\$ 13,991.09



THE ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2026 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.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
May 28th, 2026**

	03/2026	04/2026	05/2026
Deposits:	\$ 15,519.65	\$ 42,260.49	\$ 6,054.83
Disbursements:	\$ 19,374.82	\$ 15,854.20	\$ 14,817.73
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 15,276.65	\$ 37,160.49	\$ 6,052.83
Designated Funds:	\$ 243.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 2.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 23,142.85	\$ 18,514.28	\$ 23,142.85
Mortgage Balance as of 05/28			\$ 11,661.74



At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Lutheran Service Book 633 | study by Richard J. Serina Jr

Introduction

Do you remember the day of your Baptism? If you were baptized as an infant, then probably not. However, in the first few centuries of the Church, as it expanded through continuous missionary efforts, most new believers were adult converts. Whether Jew or Gentile, God fearing believers or unbelieving pagans, they knew of a life before Jesus Christ. That also means they could see the stark contrast with life after Holy Baptism, a life awake to the mercy of God granted in those saving waters through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This sense of new life in Christ is the theme of the ancient hymn “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing.” It shows the intricate connection between the death and resurrection of Jesus on the one hand and our celebrations of Holy Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar and the Season of Easter on the other.

- If you were baptized as an infant, what was your earliest memory of Baptism? What images do you associate with that first memory?
- If you were baptized as an adult, what do you remember about that blessed day? What images do you associate with it?

Exploring the Scriptures

The biblical background of today’s hymn is the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. There are two parts to the Exodus: the Passover, which precedes the Exodus, and the Exodus, when the people of Israel escaped Pharaoh’s army through the Red Sea. The Passover is recorded in Ex. 12:1–32.

- What did Moses command the Israelites to do on the night of the Passover? What kind of a lamb is reserved for this Passover sacrifice (v. 5)? How does this lamb symbolize Jesus?
- How would this save them from the fate reserved for the Egyptians in verse 12? Eventually, the army of Pharaoh caught up to the Israelites in Exodus 14, as they crossed the Red Sea.

■ What did the Israelites say to Moses when they saw the army of Pharaoh draw near to them as they stood before the Red Sea (vv. 11–12)? How did Moses respond (vv. 13–14)? What happened next?

■ How did God protect His people through the waters of the Red Sea?

God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt through the Passover and the Exodus prefigures the way He rescued us from sin, death and the devil through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He gives us this victory in the waters of Holy Baptism and in the bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar.

■ How is the death and resurrection of Jesus similar to the Passover?

■ How is Holy Communion similar to the feast of the Passover?

■ How is Holy Baptism similar to the crossing of the Red Sea waters by the Israelites?

Exploring the Hymn Background

This ancient hymn was originally written to reflect the passage from death to life that all Christians receive at the font. How this occurred in the earliest days of the Church is slightly different from how we practice it now. Since the first converts to Christianity were adults, the Church provided an extensive period of instruction before receiving these catechumens into the shepherd’s flock through the waters of Holy Baptism. These Baptisms were reserved for one day of the year: Easter.

In the darkness before Easter dawn, the new converts would be led to the font, holding candles, where they would receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. After they emerged from those saving waters, they were clothed with a fresh white garment, representing their newfound purity through the righteousness of Christ. After Baptism, the new converts would enter into the assembly of believers as they celebrated together the Sacrament of Holy Communion in commemoration of the Lord’s resurrection.

Continues on Page 7

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is the "Introit"?

The Introit (pronounced in-TRO-it) comes from the Latin word "introitus" which means "entrance." The Introit used to be sung as the Pastors came into the church and approached the altar.

Why do we use the Introit in the Divine Service?

Usually, the Introit is a Psalm, or parts of Psalms, put together to help sketch a picture of the theme for the day. Sometimes the Introit can be portions of other books of the Bible. For an example of this, the Introit for "All Saints' Day" comes from a Psalm and the book of Revelation, but all of it comes from God's Word!



Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, look through the service for the Introit. Be sure to point out the one theme that ties all the parts of the service together: our Savior, Jesus Christ.



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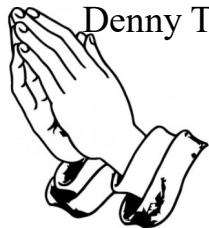
IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home

Susan Powell, at home

Elva Clauson, at home

Denny Tellinghuisen, at home



UPCOMING 2026

- June 07 Voters Meeting
- July 19-23 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
- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm



Sermons and Hymns of the Day for June

Date	Hymn	LSB	Sermon Title	Text
6-07	Let Me Be Thine Forever	689	Would you eat with Jesus?	Matthew 9:10
6-14	O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth	834	Wanted, Kingdom Workers	Matthew 9:35-10:8
6-21	Lord of Our Life	659	Who wants you dead?	Matthew 10:21
6-28	Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	685	Has the sword that Jesus brought pierced you?	Matt 10:34

(Continued from page 5)

- What similarities do you see between the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ during Holy Week and our Baptism into Jesus Christ at the font?
- What similarities do you see between the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ during Holy Week and our feasting upon His body and blood at the table?

Text

The first four stanzas of the hymn alternate between the subject of Holy Baptism and the subject of Holy Communion. Stanza 1 deals with the Church being “washed . . . in the tide” that flows from the side of Jesus Christ, while stanza 3 sings of Christ’s “paschal blood” being poured out upon us as we pass “Through the wave that drowns the foe” like Israel.

- What is the “tide” that flows from the side of Jesus? How does this draw from the image of His death upon the cross? How are we washed in that tide?
- What is the “paschal blood,” and how is it poured upon us? Who is the “foe” drowned in this flood?

Stanzas 2 and 4 then refer to the Sacrament of the Altar. We sing of Christ as the “victim” of the Passover and the “priest” who offers not the blood of a lamb as a sacrifice, but His own blood in the wine of Communion. Likewise, He gives us not the flesh of a lamb, but His own body at the feast of the Sacrament. Then, we sing of Christ’s body as the “manna from above” given to us here at the Communion feast.

- How are these stanzas speaking about Holy Communion? What does our Lord give us beneath the bread and wine of the Sacrament?

In the next three stanzas, we return to the paschal feast celebrated each Easter, when the earliest adult converts would receive Holy Baptism and come to the table for the first time. The Holy Triduum (the three days of Christ’s death, rest in the tomb and resurrection) represents the victory of Jesus over death and the grave, and so we celebrate that victory when we gather on Easter to receive His crucified and risen body and blood in the Sacrament.

- Stanza 5 speaks of Jesus as the “Mighty Victim from the sky.” What is meant by “from the sky”? How does that contrast with the powers that now lie “beneath” Christ?
- Stanza 7 sings of “Newborn souls in You to be.” How does this relate to the original context of our hymn? How are we all newborn souls on account of

Holy Baptism? How does our celebration of Easter remind us of our new births in Christ?

Making the Connection

Whenever we celebrate Holy Communion, we commemorate the paschal feast of Easter. In this Sacrament, both the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are symbolized. The bread and wine of the Sacrament do indeed give us a visual picture of the Lord’s death upon Golgotha. But He is not still dead in a tomb — He has risen again and is alive. When we bless those elements of bread and wine according to our Lord’s Words of Institution, we do not simply have a picture of Christ’s death. This Lord actually comes to us in His crucified and risen flesh, feeding us with that body and blood that hung upon the cross, was buried in a tomb, and rose again victoriously on the third day. By feeding upon His crucified and risen flesh, we receive the forgiveness purchased through His precious blood shed upon the cross and are granted a share in the eternal life He has promised us through His own resurrection.

- When you approach the table, what image comes to mind first: the death of Jesus or the resurrection of Jesus? Which one should come to mind?
- What does the crucified and risen Lord bring to you at His table? How should that shape what you believe about worship?

In Closing

Many among us cannot remember a day when we were not baptized. But that does not make the victory of Christ’s death and resurrection any less victorious or the forgiveness of Holy Baptism any less forgiving. Whenever we come to the table, Jesus impresses upon our hearts and minds His victory over death and the grave and strengthens our faith in the forgiveness He has granted us at the font. Beneath bread and wine, the crucified and risen Lord proclaims to us His death and promises us a share in His resurrection. We celebrate Easter, and with it our Baptism, each time we come to the table.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 633.

Prayer

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter).

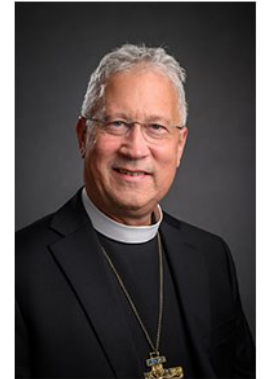
CHRIST IS RISEN

1 corinthians 15

..... INDEED



President Nominating Ballots: Slate of Candidates



From left to right:
Matthew C. Harrison, Joel D. Biermann, Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball, Brady L. Finnern, and Peter K. Lange.

Voting delegates — one pastor and one officer from each congregation regularly cared for by one pastor or pastor[s] (Bylaw 2.5.5) — will cast their votes in the first round June 6–30. There could be up to four rounds of voting until a candidate receives more than 50% of the votes.

Internet balloting will be facilitated by election contractor YesElections (formerly Election-America) on behalf of the LCMS Office of the Secretary.

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 CHURCH**
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Candidate	Nomina- tions
Matthew C. Harrison	900
Joel D. Biermann	334
Benjamin T. Ball	311
Brady L. Finnern	148
Peter K. Lange	65