

GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2025

WELCOME

Welcome

Phillip and Miranda

Flugge

Phillip grew up in Sioux Falls and has been a long time member of Christ. He works at a Circle K.

Miranda grew up in Mitchell and is a cosmetologist working at Great Clips.

Miranda received instruction and became a communicant member on May 25, 2025.

They were married in 2011 and enjoy life together with 3 cats and hobbies of gardening and baking.

We pray you find love and fellowship here at Christ Lutheran.



CONTENTS

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2	Upcoming Events & Lutheran Family Services	4
Life Thoughts in the Church Year	2	VBS 2025	5
LCMS Stewardship	3	Kids in Worship	5
Treasurer's Report	4	Hymn Study	6-8
In Our Prayers	4	Calendars	Insert
Sermon Text and Titles	4		

BIRTHDAYS

August

04 Cody Doohen
04 Naarah Fick
04 Micah Holtz
16 Jeremiah Deardoff
18 Blake Doohen
18 Kaden Johnson
20 Daniel Nix
23 Leah Preheim
26 Rick Guenther
31 Bonnie Ellis

ANNIVERSARIES

August

05 Pr. Raymond & Tamara Hartwig

BAPTISMS

02 Martin Johnson
14 Michael Deutsch
16 Ethan Hericks
22 Micah Holtz
23 Heather Johnson
24 Stephanie Preheim



**Talk Radio for the
Thinking Christian**

www.issuesetc.org

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

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

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

August 3 “God isn’t a page in your book, you’re part of His. And He’s delighted to have you in the family.” *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 10 “Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us that the Heavenly Father makes His love for our kind evident in sunshine and rainfall (Matthew 5:45) along with sparrows and lilies (Matthew 6:25-33). So, we may expect to learn about the sanctity of every human life not only from His Word but also from His world.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 17 “Never apologize for sharing God’s Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world.” *Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 24 “We stand together, one in mind and heart, and with one voice, in defense of the lives of our unborn children—God’s precious little ones. Yet, what we stand for is not only the lives of these precious unborn children but also the moms, the dads, the grandmas and grandpas, the young and the old, the healthy and the sick and dying. What we stand for is the very value—the very gift—of life itself.” *Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 31 “God created every one of us to shine brightly in the world He made for us. Each person is a candle, sustaining His light to share with others. When a baby is aborted, his or her candle is extinguished. Clearly, that is not what God wants for us. None of us is unimportant to God; He cares about all of us, no matter our size, age, parents, gender, or disabilities. Every candle has a special purpose God designed.” *Christina, Missouri, Lutherans For Life Essay Contest – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Sacred Music 24/7



lutheranpublicradio.org



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

LCMS Stewardship Ministry ~ Newsletter article – August 2025

“Jesus’ transforming presence

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’” (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector’s curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This

hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus’ own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus’ house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus’ approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ’s body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God’s House to yours!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 24th, 2025

	<u>05/2025</u>	<u>06/2025</u>	<u>07/2025</u>
Deposits:	\$ 24,172.99	\$ 7,810.10	\$ 14,622.44
Disbursements:	\$ 14,243.24	\$ 13,847.09	\$ 73,605.54
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 23,147.99	\$ 7,786.10	\$ 14,618.44
Designated Funds:	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 4.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 16,987.20	\$ 21,234.00	\$ 16,987.20
Mortgage Balance as of 07/25			\$ 34,369.51



IN OUR PRAYERS

Duane Ellis at home, health issues
Mildred Corey, at home
Susan Powell, in rehab for shoulder surgery
Elva Clauson, at home

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES FOR AUGUST

Gracious God, You send great blessings	782	08/03/25	Headed for Things Above	Col. 3:1-11
O little flock, fear not the foe	666	08/10/25	What Makes you Anxious?	Luke 12:22
Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word	655	08/17/25	You Hypocrites!?	Luke 12:56
God has spoken by His prophets	583	08/24/25	How do you know Jesus?	John 1:47-48
Son of God, eternal Savior	842	08/31/25	When will you be repaid?	Luke 14:14

UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

- Sept 14 Voters Meeting
- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 03 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 03, 10, 17 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 14: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec 14 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

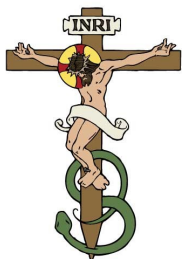


Flower Chart

The 2025 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.



VBS 2025



Crucified
Higher Things Vacation Bible School

We held Vacation Bible School on July 20st—24th. We used the Higher Things “Crucified” lessons. The children learned about how God saves us with His love. We looked at the fall into sin, Mary being told she would give birth to Jesus, Jesus crucifixion and Paul’s conversion..

We had an average of 19 children each night. We would like to thank all of the people who helped out with VBS this year. Those who donated their time, talents and gifts, from donating items/food to those who worked with the kids. Thank you to the parents who also brought their children in to take part in VBS. We had a good group of kids and as always wonderful people to help our children learn of the love of Christ. We look forward to next year



KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the “Benediction”?

The Benediction (pronounced ben-eh-DIK-shun) is God’s blessing for the congregation given through the pastor at the very end of the service. There are several different benedictions that we use in the church. The Aaronic Benediction is the one that we use in the Divine Service. You can find this in Num. 6:24–26. We use the other benedictions in other services like Matins and Vespers. Can you find the benedictions for these services in your hymnal?



Why is there a Benediction in the Divine Service?

The word “benediction” comes from the Latin word “bene” which means “well,” and “dicere” which means “speak.” When the pastor pronounces the Benediction, God is giving us His blessing, or speaking well to us. He sends us on our way with His blessing after we have received His wonderful gifts through the Word and Sacraments. God sure does a lot of giving to His people!



Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, direct your children to the various services in the hymnal. Encourage them to find and read the benedictions for each service. Help them to find the Aaronic Benediction.



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Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

Lutheran Service Book 782 | study by Charles Gustafson

Introduction

A little boy was at a local pizza shop in Queens, New York. He was there with his family awaiting a pizza the father had ordered. The lad noticed a homeless person with no food sitting on a bench outside the shop. He asked his father if he could take his slice of pizza and give it to the unknown person. “What a son that man has!” spoke a lady sitting at the counter. “I’ll bet he’s just like his dad,” replied another.

Today’s hymn focuses upon the blessings God grants to us and how we are to respond to them with the result that God’s name is glorified.

- Make a list of the gifts God has given to you this past year. In what ways have you shared them with other people?
- When you share what God has given you, do you share for the sake of bringing glory to God, or does that simply happen because of the act?

Exploring the Scriptures

Stewardship is sometimes understood to be a code word for the development of better giving habits within a church. This hymn is found in the Stewardship section of the hymnal, but rather than reflecting the motive for increased giving, its theme is the proper management of everything God has first given us.

- Look up 1 John 3:16–18. In what way did God show His love toward humanity? How does that way become motivation for us to show our love? What are

some of the tangible ways that we can express godlike love to others?

- How do the ways mentioned above “bear the imprint of [God’s] grace” (st. 4)?

Sometimes congregations and individuals within the church can be accused of hoarding the blessings God has given to them. This happens at times in the forms of large bank accounts or even in endowment funds that go unused. The Gospel for today, Luke 12:13–21, reminds us about our propensity toward hoarding, and the Old Testament lesson, Eccl. 2:18–26, reminds us of the vanity of our toil if we do not use, in accordance with God’s will, what it is we have reaped.

- How does the refrain of the hymn become a prayer for us to be better stewards?
- In light of the Gospel lesson for today, what do the words “As we tend that endless treasure / May our care encircle all” (st. 2) mean to you?

The Bible passage 1 Peter 4:10–11 serves as a core text for this hymn. According to this text:

- Is stewardship only about the sharing of material blessings?
- Is the point of stewardship the simple sharing of gifts, or is it something else?

Exploring the Hymn Background

Dr. Gregory Wismar (b. 1946) is an or-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

dained minister in Connecticut who became chairman of the LCMS Commission on Worship in 2004. It was observed in the process of setting the hymn corpus of Lutheran Service Book that no entirely new texts were included in the Stewardship section. In order to respond to this concern, Dr. Wismar agreed to develop a text that would reflect the stewardship of creation as well as the traditional themes of stewardship of time and treasures.

■ What does stewardship of creation mean to you? Why is it important?

The twenty-first century is being shaped by humanity's concern over the earth's ecology. Entire societies and individuals are urged to "go green."

■ How does this hymn support the concern about the environment and the preservation of the blessings God has granted through nature?

Upon review by the Hymnal Subcommittee, the final line of the hymn was changed from "Praise be Yours through time and space" to "Praise be Yours in ev'ry place."

■ How might our caring for God's gifts bring praise to God in every place?

■ How might our lack of concern for the same dishonor the gift as well as the giver?

Text

The words of the hymn remind us that all things come from a merciful and loving God. The first stanza recalls Lam. 3:22–

23, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

■ How aware are you of the mercies of God given to you each day? Can you enumerate them?

In the meaning to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther speaks to the gracious nature of almighty God, who gives good things to humanity, when he writes, "He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. ... All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy" (LSB, p. 322). The hymn's second stanza reminds us that this has been God's nature since creation.

■ Why does God the Father give humanity "great blessings"? Are they given solely so that we can be blessed? Are they given so that we can show God's mercy to others by using them to be a blessing to others? Are they given because God's nature is to be benevolent?

Jesus, God's Son, our Brother and Lord, is like us in every way; He is fully human. During His ministry He suffered the needs experienced by all people. Stanza 3 of the hymn picks up on the fact that many people cared for Jesus. Luke 8:1–3 notes the fact that caring women provided for the needs of Jesus and His disciples. Mary, Martha and Lazarus provided a place for Jesus to stay (John 12:1–3), and Simon the leper offered hospitality as well (Mark 14:3). In Matt. 25:40 we are reminded that helping those in need is help-

(Continued on page 8)

ing Christ indeed.

- How can assisting those in need by using the blessings God has given you be considered an expression of devotion to Jesus the Savior?
- Does your church have any special ministries to those in need inside the congregation and beyond the congregation? Discuss the needs and make possible additions to the list.

The final stanza serves as a doxological stanza, praising the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The context is not that of formal worship but of everyday caring for God's creation and all of humanity.

- Do you think that the works of social ministry can be considered forms of worship?

Making the Connection

This hymn seems to diagram stages of stewardship. There are basically three stages to consider.

- In the hymn, what do you think stage one of stewardship is (st. 1)? Who are we to recognize in this stage and what is He

to be recognized for?

Stanza 2 reinforces the point of stage one, stating, "By your Word You formed creation," yet the second part of the stanza conveys even more, a stage two of stewardship.

- What is stage two of stewardship? Stanza 3 explains that through proper stewardship the needs of others are met.
- Does stage three end in the serving of other people, or does that serving offer "love that never ends"?

In Closing

Sing the doxology, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow," (LSB 805), which reflects the theme of the hymn studied, acknowledging that all comes from God and that the proper stewardship of His gifts is praise to the one from whom all blessings flow.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 782.

Prayer

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; 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 13C).

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