

GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2025

WELCOME

Alan Kludt became a member of Christ January 22, 2024.

He grew up in Iroquois, SD. Following High school he enlisted in the Army. He served active duty for 8 years and in the National guard for 14.

He met his wife, Suk in Korea and they were married in 1987. Brookings South Dakota was home while he worked for Larsen Manufacturing for 24 years. He was a member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. They relocated to Sioux Falls in 2023 where he is now employed by a bank.

His wife attends a predominantly Korean Christian church in Sioux Falls.

They have one daughter, 2 granddaughters and await the birth of a grandson in September.



He calls Pheasant hunting and enjoying nature his hobby.

We are glad to have you, Alan, among the family at Christ Lutheran.

VOTERS MEETING — JUNE 8, 2025 AFTER DIVINE SERVICE

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BIRTHDAYS

June

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

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
- 26 Steve Counts
- 28 Nicole Doohen
- 30 Elva Clauson

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



Talk Radio for the
Thinking Christian

www.issuesetc.org

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

June 1 “Watch and prepare for Jesus to return. Set your hearts on Him and on your life in Him. He is the beginning and end, the purpose and goal of your life. So there’s no need for tears as you see Him ascend. He is with you always. He will come back for His people soon. Then we will appear with Him in glory.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 8 “We are blessed because Jesus has come to us, God most high become a human baby. We are blessed because God has kept His promise to redeem us, even at the cost of His own suffering, death, and resurrection. And we are blessed because the Holy Spirit has given us faith in His good promises.” *Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 15 “You have a higher purpose than living for yourself. Your work is His. You live for the one who died and rose for you. You share the good news about Him. That’s how God grows His family, adding branches to His tree. You get to be part of this family—a family with a rich past and a glorious future.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 22 “Let your life be so focused on the grace of God in Christ that your eyes are open to the people He is bringing into your life even now, ‘the least of these my brothers.’ Do not worry about whether the world considers them influencers or nobodies. Be attentive to those in your sphere of influence as Christ Himself is attentive to you. Concerned citizens? Sure! It is important. But being concerned disciples of Jesus for others is what ultimately lasts.” *Dr. Gregory Seltz, PhD, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

June 29 “As your life goes on, you will continue to see the effects of sin in the world. Your own bodies will fail with time. The world will seem to be a darker place. Loved ones will pass away. But do not be ignorant about those who have fallen asleep, the Apostle Paul encourages you. Instead, know with certainty that ‘the end for you is only the end of the hardship. Life awaits you in Christ!’” *Daily Devotion, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



Rooted in Christ, Growing in Stewardship

The heartland is now awash in various hues of green. The doldrums of winter give way to the colors of spring. Now, the promise of spring gives way to the growth of summer. Fields are planted and sprouted. Gardens are planted. Flowers adorn the beds of neighborhood homes and roadside ditches. Green is the shade of life!

Green growth is also the hue of the faithful steward. The seed of faith planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism grows as it is nurtured in the Word proclaimed and ingested in the Holy Supper. This faith does indeed save. But our stewardship of the Gospel is also designed to bear fruit for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

To consider this, let us look at the hymn, "Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing" (LSB 691). It is very much a stewardship hymn!

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.

· The tree of faith is not planted in us by us. It is the Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created for it (Gen. 1:26–28).

· He is the One who makes it grow in us. The fruits of the Spirit are borne out because we, by grace through faith, are connected to the vine that is Jesus (John 15).

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

· Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.

· But that fruit is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

· Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. He is the pattern. We reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us.

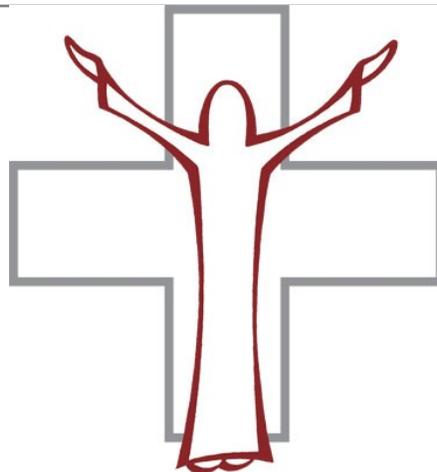
· This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

· Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.

· The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity. For us. For our neighbor. All worked out by the Spirit.

Green is the color of the world right now. It is also the color of our stewardship and it is growing in us as we are connected to the vine, Jesus! God grant our growth in Him!



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT May 22nd, 2025

	<u>03/2025</u>	<u>04/2025</u>	<u>05/2025</u>
Deposits:	\$ 22,139.18	\$ 18,755.12	\$ 18,089.71
Disbursements:	\$ 22,704.49	\$ 15,274.17	\$ 13,908.77
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 21,207.18	\$ 18,438.23	\$ 18,064.71
Designated Funds:	\$ 932.00	\$ 316.89	\$ 25.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 16,987.20	\$ 16,987.20	\$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 05/22			\$ 38,760.97

SUMMER HELP NEEDED



With summer schedules changing, we are in need of help with mowing the lawn and some of the simple cleaning duties at the church. If you are able to volunteer for any of these duties, please let us know. We will create a schedule so people would know when they have signed up and we would know we have the required coverage. The church will supply the mower, gas, cleaning supplies and equipment.



THE ALTAR 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.



Christ Is the World's Redeemer

Lutheran Service Book 539 | study by Christopher I. Thoma

Introduction

In the Christian Church, using the word “Redeemer” is as common as breathing. It happens a lot. Its usage comes quite naturally and often goes on around us without an examination of the life-sustaining details.

The process of inhaling and exhaling is actually very precise and purposeful. Breathing provides for cellular respiration. It takes in the beneficial gas oxygen and expels the toxic gas carbon dioxide, all the while utilizing the nose, the bronchioles, the lungs, the diaphragm, the alveoli and the like. There really is quite a lot happening when we breathe.

In the same way, there is a lot packed into the word “Redeemer,” and the hymn before us offers the opportunity for us to hear and learn the wonderful details, giving us a memorable image of just what it means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Redeemer of the world. This builds confidence that indeed full redemption has been won!

- What does it mean to “redeem” something?
- What kinds of things are redeemed, and why?
- The title of the hymn relates that the world has been redeemed. When the Lord redeemed the world, how much of it did He redeem, and from what did He redeem it?

Exploring the Scriptures

The Gospel Readings appointed for the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the Three-Year Lectionary are taken from John 17:1–26. In each of its parts, this text reveals the words of Jesus in prayer and the purity of assurance He has in the unfolding of the Father's will for redemption. In the Three Year Lectionary, the Gospel Reading is John 15:26—16:4. This reading carries the Lord's words to the disciples on the night He was betrayed. Here it is that the Lord prepares them for the approaching struggles and calls for them to look to Him.

- The Time of Easter is that glorious time when the Church looks back upon the Lenten battle and is refreshed to know the certainty of salvation as seen and proven in the victory of the empty tomb and Christ's ascension. Why is this hymn appropriate

for the Season of Easter?

- Why is this hymn appointed for Easter 7, the Sunday immediately following Ascension Day, and not Easter 2 or 3?

Exploring the Hymn Background

St. Columba (521–97), the author of this ancient hymn, is known in history as a man born of Irish royalty who later became a monk with a great passion for mission work. He established several monasteries throughout Ireland and Scotland as well as a school for missionary training on the Isle of Iona, Scotland. He is remembered for truly practicing what he preached by evangelizing within each of the Druid communities with which he came into contact.

The hymn itself, in tune and text, bears witness to the confidence and eagerness St. Columba had for spreading the good news of the Redeemer to the people around him. He was not fearful of rejection, but certain of the Lord's once-and-for-all Gospel work to save the world. St. Columba uses colorful language to thoroughly describe the very real battleground of sin and death and the mighty dominion of Christ by His life, death and resurrection for sinful man.

- What is the tenor of the portrait painted by St. Columba in the hymn? Are the words carried by a tune that is somber? Joyful? Triumphant? Majestic?
- Scan the full text of the hymn. How do his choices of imagery reveal his familiarity with royalty? Persecution? Life-and-death issues of the day?

Text

It is easy to see that this hymn is written in a way that emphasizes the Redeemer as the one who must do battle to win back what is His. The price will be costly and the warfare great. The reader is carried along by this theme and prepared to see the details of the battle unfold in the Passion of Jesus, a passion which must include the shedding of His precious blood.

- Consider Is. 13:11 and John 15:18. How does God feel about the sinful world? How does the sinful world feel about God?

Continues on Page 7

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

What is an "acolyte"?

The acolyte is the person (or persons) who lights the candles before the service. The word acolyte comes from the Greek word *akolouthos* which means "follower." In English, the word acolyte sometimes means "attendant."

Why do we use acolytes in the Church?

Acolytes have always been an important part of worship. For centuries, acolytes have attended to the service of God's people by helping the pastor in many different ways. In our churches today, acolytes primarily serve by lighting the candles. Acolytes wear robes and sit apart from the congregation because they are helping the pastor to serve God's people during the service. Wow! What an important job!



Parents:

During the Divine Service, point out the acolyte to your children. If they are too young at the time, encourage them that one day they will get the opportunity to be an acolyte. Remind them that being an acolyte is a very important job for children to have in the church.



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IN OUR PRAYERS

Rita and Bernard Ewoldt as they recover from illness at home

Mildred Corey, at home

Susan Powell, at home

Elva Clauson, at home



UPCOMING 2025

2025

- June 08 Voters Meeting
- July 20-24 VBS
- 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

Congratulations to Our New Confirmands



On Palm Sunday, Samuel Fick and Grace Counts were confirmed into membership of Christ Lutheran. Samuel is the son of Laenie and Jonathan Fick. Grace is the daughter of Steve and Tina Counts. We welcome both Samuel and Grace into membership.

Sermons and Hymns of the Day for June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hymn</u>	<u>LSB</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Text</u>
06/01	Christ is the world's Redeemer	539	Jesus Prays for You!!!	John 17:20
06/08	Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord	497	Are you happy Jesus went away?	John 14:28
06/15	Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest	498		
06/22	Rise, shine, you people	825	Return to your home.	Luke 8:39
06/29	Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's head	647	Flesh and Blood did not	Matthew 16:17

(Continued from page 5)

Stanza 1 marches into the field by speaking of purity, font, trust, hope, security, armor, soldiers, earth, sky, health, life and death. Consider each of these individually. Read Phil. 2:5–11; Acts 2:21–36; and Rom. 8:28–39.

- How is Christ connected to each in the hymn?
- Christ is called the “lover of the pure.” Read 1 John 1:7; 3:1–3; and Heb. 9:11–15. How does the word “pure” draw your attention to Holy Baptism?
- Read Rom. 6:3–11. What is happening in Holy Baptism, and how is it connected to Christ’s redemptive work?

Stanza 2 builds upon the foundation of stanza 1, directing the reader’s attention to the decisive moment in the battle, Christ’s lifting up on the cross, which secured the victory.

- Read Heb. 12:1–3 and Rev. 7:9–17. To whom is stanza 2 referring, and what is their role in the battle? In these texts, how are we brought back to Baptism?
- Of what event do the words “Who wave their palms in triumph” remind you? Where was that event leading?
- Read Heb. 12:18, 22–24. It is said that heaven and earth come together in the Divine Service. What are the implications of this? Where and in what context is this theology mentioned specifically in the Divine Service?

As stanza 3 unfolds, Christ’s redemptive actions on our behalf continue. Read 1 Peter 3:18–22.

- “Down through the realm of darkness / He strode in victory” is a poetic retelling of 1 Peter 3:19. What is the hymn’s confident interpretation of Christ’s reason for descending into hell?
- Almost immediately, the hymn turns to the resurrection and ascension of Christ. How are these connected to Baptism?

It may be surmised that this hymn is a lyrical summary of the redemption earned by Christ and articulated clearly by the three ecumenical creeds. (See the Second Article of the Creed and its meaning [LSB, p. 322]). Therefore, like the creeds, which are confessions of and in the name of the Triune God, this hymn rightly concludes with “Amen.”

- See the Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer in Luther’s Small Catechism (LSB, p. 325). Why is it good to end the hymn with the word “Amen”?
- In your opinion, does the word “Amen” serve to build reverent timidity or holy confidence?

Making the Connection

This hymn is one of confident faith in the face of this world’s struggles. St. Columba, being the missionary that he was, most likely found himself in situations that brought about doubt and fear. Consider your own life and its difficulties and troubles. How might the following lines serve to stir the confidence of faith in Christ for you when the hour is dark?

- “The font of heav’nly wisdom, / Our trust and hope secure” (st. 1).
- “The armor of His soldiers” (st. 1).
- “Our health while we are living, / Our life when we shall die” (st. 1).
- “Christ has our host surrounded / With clouds of martyrs bright, / Who wave their palms in triumph / And fire us for the fight” (st. 2).

In Closing

Just as breathing is composed of many intricate particulars, so also does Jesus Christ accomplish all that is required of Him as the Redeemer, in order that we might be His redeemed people. His life, death and resurrection are the currency in the redeeming act. As the Redeemer, He buys us back, pays the ransom, purchases us from sin, death and the power of the devil. By the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in the Redeemer, we are strengthened to live our lives in this world. And we have the confidence to know that whether we live or whether we die, we are His. He loves us and proved it.

- Sing or read aloud together LSB 539.

Prayer

O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Plans are being made for the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), which is set for July 18–23, 2026, in Phoenix.

We will gather with great joy under the convention theme “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22. We are assured that our justification is found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

[Read a letter \(LCMS 2026 Convention — Announcement Letter\)](#) from LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison with more important information, including a list of convention dates and a reminder about the deadline to submit nominations.

As we make our way toward the 2026 convention in Phoenix, news and updates will be available at lcms.org/convention/national.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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