

GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2026

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Lutheran Service Book 717 | study by Gregory Just Wismar

Introduction

What hymns would you like to have sung at your funeral? Some people very carefully choose what hymns they would like to incorporate into that service; other people do not make any selection in that regard. “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” has become associated with the funerals of some great figures in American history, including presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Known as the “Navy hymn” in the United States, the original text and tune are both creations of gifted Englishmen. The two “middle stanzas” in the version used in Lutheran Service Book (LSB) were written at a later time by an American clergyman. The hymn is an expression of confidence in the ability of God to grant His protection to all travelers. The words remind us of our dependence on the grace of God not only for the success of our earthly journeys, but also for the completion of our final journey from earth to heaven.

- Have you given any thought to what hymns you might like to have sung at your funeral? What factors have helped you to make your choices?
- For many people, this hymn brings to mind experiences they have had “on the waters” of some sort. Can you recall a time when your experience on a lake, river or the ocean has reminded you of God’s creating powers?

Exploring the Scriptures



LIFE CHAIN

A peaceful, prayerful, public witness
standing for Life all across the USA and Canada.



Sunday, October 4 | 2-3 PM | Sioux Falls

Location

N. sidewalk of W. 41st St. from
S. Sertoma to S. Western Ave.

Contact 605-929-6531 or lawipf@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Birthdays, Baptisms & Anniversaries.....	2	Sermon Text and Titles.....	4
Life Thoughts in the Church Year	2	Upcoming Events & Lutheran Family Services.....	4
LCMS Stewardship	3	VBS 2026	5, 8
Life Chain	3	Kids in Worship.....	5
Treasurer’s Report	4	Welcome new members.....	7
In Our Prayers.....	4	Calendars	Insert

BIRTHDAYS

August

04 Cody Dooehen
04 Naarah Fick
15 Alan Kludt
16 Jeremiah Deardoff
18 Blake Dooehen
18 Kaden Johnson
20 Daniel Nix
23 Leah Preheim
26 Rick Guenther
31 Bonnie Ellis

ANNIVERSARIES

05 Pr. Raymond & Tamara Hartwig
07 Berbard & Rita Ewoldt

BAPTISMS

2 Martin Johnson
8 Justin Jones
14 Michael Deutsch
16 Ethan Hericks
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 2 “And so, our life finds its meaning in Him. Our path is directed by Him. Our future is secure in Him. Though life may take a very unexpected turn, whether with a pregnancy, an illness, depression, or sudden loss, there is hope, there is peace, and there is comfort in the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 9 “Just as powerful, we can relate to stories because, whether we know it or not, we are part of the greatest story ever told. The one that’s still unfolding. The one that will last forever. We’re part of God’s story—the one He’s writing—the story of salvation. And because we’re in God’s story, our story begins even before we were born.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 16 “The message concerning the work and person of Christ is meant to bring joy to the sorrowing and light to those in the darkness. The light of God’s mercy shines into the darkest of situations; the Holy Spirit guides people to confess their sins and brings forgiveness to those who have participated in abortions, pointed people to end their own lives, or suggested that someone be harmed in some other way.” *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 23 “The One who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows is now seated in sovereign authority over all things. He is not pacing the floor of heaven, wringing His hands. He is reigning. And because He reigns, we can have courage and peace even when our world seems like it’s unraveling before our very eyes.” *Rev. Brian W. Thomas – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

August 30 “Use the biological reality of the word ‘abortion’ to begin discussion to share that message with your unbelieving neighbor. Do so with boldness, but gentleness, please! Use the eternal reality of the word ‘abortion’ to share that message with your fellow believers. Speak the truth in love, please!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – 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 2026

Define Your Life by How You Give

Originally Published in August 2023

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and

making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



2026 Sioux Falls LIFE CHAIN

Dear Pastor,

We invite you and your congregation to participate with us in Life Chain.

- **LIFE CHAIN** is scheduled for **Sunday afternoon, October 4, 2026, 2-3 p.m.**

This life-saving public witness occurs simultaneously across the USA and Canada as part of the National Life Chain every first Sunday in October. Your church will be assigned a specific location along the north sidewalk of W. 41st St., between S. Sertoma Ave. and S. Western Ave. Signs will be provided. www.facebook.com/SiouxFallsAreaRTL/about/

“Save the Date” announcements for your bulletin or newsletter will be provided. Flyers can also be emailed to your church or Respect Life coordinator for overhead graphics and bulletin boards.

Please contact **Ann Wipf** at **605-929-6531** or lawipf@gmail.com for questions, concerns, and needs.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 30th, 2026

	<u>05/2026</u>	<u>06/2026</u>	<u>07/2026</u>
Deposits:	\$ 12,820.93	\$ 14,190.17	\$ 26,200.66
Disbursements:	\$ 14,899.09	\$ 15,095.87	\$ 14,812.33
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 12,818.93	\$ 9,158.17	\$ 23,693.66
Designated Funds:	\$ 2.00	\$ 5,032.00	\$ 2,507.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 23,142.85	\$ 18,514.28	\$ 18,514.28
Mortgage Balance as of 07/30			\$ 6,965.85



IN OUR PRAYERS

Mildred Corey, at home
 Susan Powell, at home
 Elva Clauson, at home
 Denny Tellinghuisen, at home

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

- 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

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 Zehndner.

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES FOR AUGUST

August 2

O Living Bread from Heaven 642
Jesus has more than enough for you. Matthew 14:20

August 9

Eternal Father, Strong to Save 717
Trust Jesus even when the fears of this world take you down. Matthew 14:30

August 16

In Christ There is No East or West 653
What do you do when Jesus doesn't Answer you? Matthew 15:23

August 23

Built on the Rock 645
Can you keep a secret? Matthew 16:20

August 30

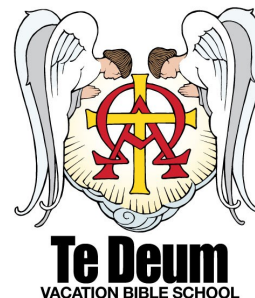
Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus 531
When does Satan take control of you? Matthew 16:23



VBS 2026

We held Vacation Bible School on July 19th—23rd. We used the Higher Things “Te Deum” lessons. The children learned about the Lord’s Prayer and God’s love.

We had about 10 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 “Office of the Keys”?

When you hear this question, you might think that there is an office somewhere in the church building that holds a lot of keys. But this use of “office” means duty and obligation. For example, when someone is elected to Congress, they are elected to a public office with authority and certain duties. The Office of the Keys is an authority given by Christ to His Church with the duty to forgive repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.



Why is this authority called “keys”?

This authority given to the Church works just like a set of keys that locks and unlocks the gates of heaven. When forgiveness is withheld, the door of heaven is locked. When forgiveness is given, the door of heaven is opened and God’s forgiveness in Christ is poured out on the repentant person!



Parents: Trying to understand why the Church would withhold forgiveness may be difficult. Be sure to study John 20:22–23 and Matt. 18:18 with your child. Discuss what it means to be unrepentant as opposed to repentant. An unrepentant person is not sorry for their sins and does not believe in Jesus Christ. A repentant person is sorry for their sins out of love for God and believes in Jesus Christ for salvation!



Copyright © 2017 LCMS Worship. Created by Christopher Thoma. LCMS congregations and schools have permission to reproduce “KIDS in the Divine Service” for their use. lcms.org | 888-THE-LCMS

(Continued from page 1)

Although the Old Testament people of God for the most part avoided large bodies of water, there were “storm stories” that became part of their shared experience and part of their worship life. Read Ps. 107:23–32.

- What was the result for those who called out to the Lord? What was the psalmist’s suggested response for the deliverance received?

The Bible begins with the event of creation that centers on the primeval ocean. Read Gen. 1:1–2.

- Where was the Spirit of God hovering at the time that creation was begun?
- How are we reminded by the creation narrative of the central role of water on our planet?

One of the most stirring Gospel narratives is the account of Jesus stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Read Matt. 8:23–27.

- What physical description of the storm by the Gospel writer makes the experience of the disciples in the boat come alive for the reader?
- How is the divine nature of Jesus displayed in this account? Where might we see His human nature in these verses?

The Gospels also share the account of Jesus meeting the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Read Matt. 14:22–33.

- Matthew describes Peter’s attempt to walk on the water. How does Jesus show His lordship here?
- How does Matthew “put us in the boat” in his telling of the events of that evening on the water of the Sea of Galilee?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” was originally written by William Whiting (1825–1878), an English schoolmaster, for a student of his who was sailing across the Atlantic to America. In the middle of the nineteenth century, transoceanic travel

was still considered to be very perilous. Whiting wanted his student to be encouraged by the poem that he wrote as a farewell gift.

- How do the words of the original hymn (stanzas 2 and 3 of that poem are listed on the page following LSB 717) give a sense of encouragement to a traveler?

Text

The creation account relating to the waters in Genesis 1 is expressed in a different way in the book of Job. Read Gen. 1:6–10 and Job 38:8–11.

- In what way does each of these accounts speak to the power of God over the water?
- How does the first stanza of the hymn reflect that it is God who sets the limits for everything in creation?
- How does Whiting include all three persons of the Holy Trinity in the four stanzas of the hymn?
- What words chosen by Whiting show the strength of the seas through which ocean travelers sail?
- How does the choice of words increase the sense of awe that is felt when God’s power in nature is displayed?

Making the Connection

The hymn “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” is centered on the theme of God’s providential care. Read Psalm 93.

- How could remembering the words of the psalmist help us when we become apprehensive about taking a journey?
 - How might the thoughts of the hymn be shared with others who have travel fears?
- LSB 717 has been chosen as the Hymn of the Day for Proper 14A, the Sunday when Job 38:4–18 is the Old Testament Lesson and Matt. 14:22–33 is the appointed Gospel. Read both lessons.
- What does the hymn writer express in stanza 4 as the best response to the God whose power is seen in the deliverance of His people?
 - What might be fitting expressions of “glad praise from air and land and sea”?

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

In Closing

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” is a hymn of trust that is appropriate for times of personal travel and for times when others are traveling as well. Its use as a hymn for funerals is understandable, in that our final traveling to God’s eternal presence — that place where “the sea was no more” (Rev. 21:1) — is the greatest of journeys.

■ Sing or read aloud together LSB 717, first in the way it was originally written, and then with the two replacement stanzas. How do both versions impart a sense of confidence for a Christian traveler — for whatever journey lies ahead?

Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Before Travel, LSB, p. 287).

WELCOME



A warm welcome to, Justin and Danielle (Dani) Jones!

Dani is a dental Hygienist employed by Dental Solutions here in Sioux Falls.

Justin has a Masters degree in Business Administration and worked as a business administrator for nursing homes for several years. They fully credit God and his plan for their life that brought them to Sioux Falls opening her job and the opportunity to purchase “Frontier Climbing and Fitness”, which keeps Justin very busy.

In August they will celebrate 1 year of marriage. They share a home with 2 cats.

Their hobbies include all things active, backpacking, biking, long boarding, anything outdoors.

May your life of faith be nourished as members of the body of Christ here at Christ Lutheran.

Prayer



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
4801 E. 6TH ST.
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110
605-338-3769
CHRISTSIOUXFALLS.ORG
MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300
PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX

