

GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2026

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Lutheran Service Book 699 | study by Scott R. Schilbe

Introduction

Time for rest is much desired. To relax, to repose is actually not as easy as it sounds. Work and family responsibilities constantly interrupt that Sunday afternoon nap or Thursday evening leisure time. Home projects, originally estimated to take a short time, result in even bigger projects

taking away more precious time! Email and social media inundate us with messages, status updates, blogs and tweets, all begging to be read. There is always something to do! No rest allowed!

- What are some of your regular activities that prevent you from resting as much as you'd like?
- Have you considered ways of limiting those activities? If so, how?

If only our constant activity were the problem. Many people are unable to find rest due to fear and despair — fear and despair over a holy God who cannot tolerate sin. Soon, such people find themselves working to appease a holy God, trying to do whatever they can to earn God's approval

and favor.

- Why can't such a person ever find rest?
- Who is the only one who can provide rest from attempts to earn God's approval and favor? How does He do this?

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

- 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

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BIRTHDAYS

05 Genevieve Deardoff
 07 Nora Brack
 09 Constance Bartlett
 9 Jonathan Fick
 11 Justin Jones
 13 Heather Johnson
 17 Innocent Nshizirungu
 17 Kandie Nelson
 18 Ray Tieszen
 23 Jerome Ommen
 24 Estelle Clare
 25 Lynn Clark
 29 Mason Hericks
 29 Stephanie Preheim

ANNIVERSARIES

1 Avery and Lynn Clark
 30 Steven and Tina Counts

BAPTISMS

1 Samuel Fick
 8 Jessie Bent
 21 Sonja Fick



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LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

July 5 “The Fourth of July is an ideal time to thank God if you have a good homeland ... or in the U.S., a free country. What a blessing! Just like Job or Jonah, this isn’t the case for everyone. And we should continually pray for those whose homelands or countries are ravaged by war, politics, or disease. Praise God for giving us a country where we can worship Him and live our lives in relative freedom and peace.” *Katrina Harrmann, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 12 “Realistically, most of us will never be more than ordinary, but that doesn’t mean we’re useless. God works through the ordinary, the mundane, and the commonplace. He worked through Esther, and He works through you to bless others in ways you may never know.” *Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 19 “Each of us amounts to more than assorted cells, isolated fluids, and random spasms. Human means—in every case—a character, with an emerging identity, disclosing a history, developing toward an intended destiny. Every life is a story.” *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

July 26 “Even with all our sins, and even our rejection of Him, God is patiently loving us and calling us back to Him through the Holy Spirit. That’s your story, friends. Go out in your God-given identity as a king or a queen and a priest. Don’t go in fear and trembling, because when He calls you, He’ll be with you!” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD - LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – JULY 2025

Originally published July 2023

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth

into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 26th, 2026

	04/2026	05/2026	06/2026
Deposits:	\$ 42,260.49	\$ 12,820.93	\$ 13,422.17
Disbursements:	\$ 15,854.20	\$ 14,899.09	\$ 15,095.76
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 37,160.49	\$ 12,818.93	\$ 8,394.17
Designated Funds:	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 5,028.00
 Monthly Budget Requirement:	 \$ 23,142.85	 \$ 18,514.28	 \$ 23,142.85
Mortgage Balance as of 06/26			\$ 9,320.01



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



We will be holding VBS Sunday, July 19th—Thursday July 23th this year from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm. The Theme this year is Te Deum. If you have children that you would like to register, please take a registration form for each child, they are found on the credenza in the Narthex. Please turn a completed registration form in the offering box in the Narthex.

We will need some volunteers who would like to help out with VBS. If you would be interested in volunteering or would have questions, please see Pastor Nix. We may also need some items donated for snacks, or decorations. If you would be interested in donating anything, please see Pastor Nix.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Why do we worship on Sunday?

Do you remember on what day Jesus rose from the dead? On what day did Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus? If you guessed Sunday, you are right! The Early Church gathered on Sunday because it directed our attention to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Many other miraculous events in the early Christian Church, such as Pentecost, happened on Sunday.



When did Christians begin gathering together for worship on Sundays?

We know from the Bible that during Paul's lifetime Christians met on Sunday to hear God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Though Christians in different regions of the world sometimes worshipped on different days, by A.D. 325 most Christians worshipped on Sunday because they considered it "the Lord's Day." Wow, what a great tradition we share with our Christian ancestors!



Parents: In the Early Church, Christians used different terms for their day of worship such as "First Day" or "Eighth Day." The label "the Lord's Day" stands out as the most significant title chosen by the Church. Direct your children to the significance in having a particular day set aside for receiving God's wonderful gifts through Word and Sacrament.



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lcms.org/1888-THE LCMS

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of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.



HYMN OF THE DAY AND SERMON TEXT AND TITLES FOR JULY

5	699	I hear the voice of Jesus say Are you wise and understanding? Matthew 11:25
12	577	Almighty God, Your Word is Cast Are the crowds that great? Matthew 11:25
19	772	In Holy conversation Who has sown you? Matthew 11:25
26	713	From God can nothing move me Pastor Andreasen

Harrison elected to sixth term as LCMS president



[CHERYL MAGNESS](#)

JUNE 24, 2026

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received more than 50% of the votes cast in the third ballot for the election of the president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), is the president-elect

for the 2026–2029 triennium. It will be his sixth term in office.

The election for the position of Synod president began last fall with an online nominating process, conducted by YesElections, that concluded Feb. 18, or five months prior to the start of the Synod convention, with a report to the secretary of the Synod.

The resulting candidates for the office of president were the five ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and who consented to serve if elected. The voting began, according to Bylaw 3.12.2.4, starting June 6 (six weeks prior to the convention) via Internet balloting provided by YesElections.

The 5,478 pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the deadline (electronic registration by March 8) or their substitutes (as validly submitted before May 29) served as the voters for this election. Of those, a total of 5,038 votes were cast in the third round of voting, constituting a vote percentage of 92.0% of the electorate. (The voter percentage was 85.4% in the first round and 88.4% in the second round.)

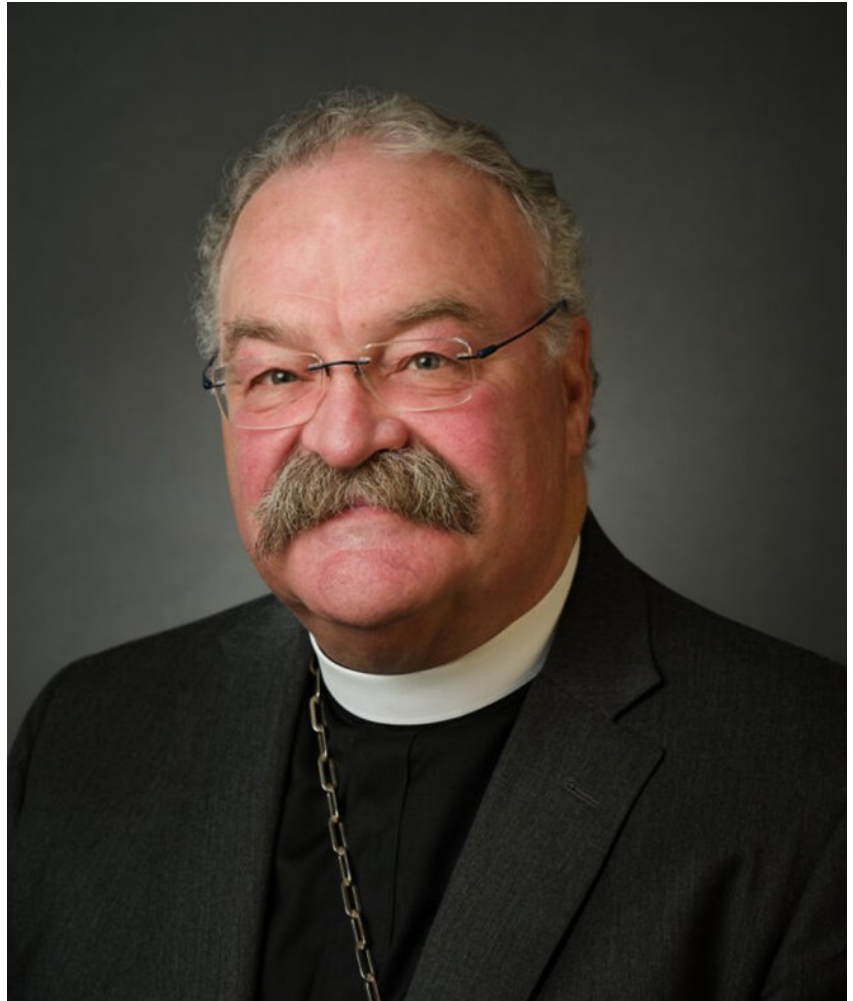
The results of the third ballot tallied and reported to the secretary of the Synod by YesElections are as follows:

- Harrison was voted president-elect with 2,524 votes (50.1%);
- The Rev. Dr. Joel D. Biermann received 2,414 votes (47.9%); and
- The Rev. Benjamin T. Ball received 100 votes (2.0%).

Harrison responded to the news of his election:

“First, thank you to the candidates who were willing to be subjected to this grueling process of public scrutiny, and especially to Dr. Biermann. I had prepared a concession speech thanking Joel for standing, noting how blessed we are in the LCMS to have such a capable theologian as our new president, and vowing my support. Thanks, too, to First Vice-President Lange, Brady Finner and Ben Ball. Any one of them would be a blessing.

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve a final term. Please forgive me my many faults and sins. I plead for your prayers for fidelity to the Gospel of Christ’s blood-bought forgiveness, and prayers that I may serve all of you as Christ would have me do in these final three years.



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Exploring the Scriptures

Jesus' comforting words of Matt. 11:28–30 teach us that He is the only true source of rest. Jesus tenderly invites us who are wearied by sin, death and our own sinful flesh to come to Him, to lay all our burdens upon Him and to receive the rest He gives.

- Jesus uses agricultural images to issue His invitation to rest. Consulting a study Bible like The Lutheran Study Bible or a Bible dictionary, comment on “yoke.” How can a “yoke” be thought of as a “burden”?
- What are some of the heavy yokes you feel in your life?
- What are some of the heavy yokes an unbeliever may face in his or her life?
- How is Jesus' yoke different from the world's yoke? Of what does His yoke consist?

Exploring the Hymn

Background

The hymn's writer, Rev. Horatius Bonar (1809–1889), served as a Presbyterian pastor in Kelso, Scotland. He wrote this hymn for children in 1846, while serving his congregation. During this time, Bonar experienced a period of unrest within the church. The unrest within the established church led him and others to form the Free Church of Scotland. A prolific hymn writer, Bonar later in life became a leader of this denomination he helped form. Throughout church changes in Scotland, he kept focused on the hope of eternal life with Jesus, a hope that Rev. Bonar aids us in confessing today.

Text

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” is selected as today's Hymn of the Day because of its connection (especially in st. 1) with Matt. 11:28–30. Bonar takes Jesus' invitation to come to Him for rest and expounds on it.

- When Jesus issues the invitation, is He referring to rest from vocational responsibilities or social media that weary us? What type of rest—what more permanent rest—is Jesus offering?

- Is this “rest” temporary or eternal or both?

Notice that Bonar begins each stanza with Jesus' words of invitational promise. The hymn's third line, in each stanza, changes the speaker from Jesus to “I.” The third and fourth lines give the response to Jesus' invitation.

- To whom could “I” refer?

- Could “I” refer to you?

Stanza 2 changes the invitation from “rest” to “drink.”

- Read John 4:14; 7:37; Rev. 22:17; and Is. 55:1. How does Bonar use these verses in stanza 2?

- Based on your study of the John, Revelation and Isaiah passages cited above, to what or whom does “living water” refer?

Stanza 3 again changes the invitation from “drink” to “look.” Using one of Jesus' “I am” statements, Bonar incorporates John 8:12 in stanza 3. Read John 8:12.

- Is this “light” temporary or eternal or both? Read Rev. 21:22–25.

Making the Connection

Each stanza highlights one invitation issued by Jesus. But all three invitations are similar, with the same aim.

- What can the words “weary,” “thirsty” and “dark” describe?
- What can the words “rest,” “water” and “light” describe?
- Who has this desired and needed “rest,” “water” and “light”?

We believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit gives us this “rest,” “water” and “light” as the Gospel is proclaimed (Absolution, sermon) and distributed

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(Baptism, the Lord's Supper). In those places, Jesus promises to give us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that He achieved for us on the cross. In giving us His gifts, He enlightens our weary and thirsty souls.

In Closing

By the Gospel proclamation, the Holy Spirit delivers rest; rest anchored on Jesus, rest for sin-terrified souls. God declares you to be without sin. You can rest. You live in the light of Jesus.

- Recalling that Jesus gives you rest in Word and Sacrament, why is regular church attendance important for a Christian?
- Do you have a friend or family member without a church home who presently is searching for rest, for peace with God? What can you say to him or her to witness of Jesus?
- Sing or read aloud together LSB 699.

Prayer

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys

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“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20–21)

The Bylaws of the LCMS instruct the secretary of the Synod to notify the candidates in the Synod's presidential election of the results of the balloting at least two weeks prior to the convention. The candidates were informed earlier today, June 24, of the results of the June 20–23 ballot.

Additional information about the election result will be published in the second issue of *Today's Business*, which will be available at the beginning of the convention. For more information about the election or candidates, see lcms.org/convention/elections.

The 69th Regular Convention of the LCMS will take place July 18–23 at the Phoenix Convention Center under theme “Christ Is Risen Indeed.”

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