

OCTOBER 2025

GOOD NEWS

from
Christ
Lutheran
Church



Christ Lutheran Church
4801 E. 6th St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Phone: 605-338-3769
Web: christsiouxfalls.org
Member: Issues, Etc., 300
Pastor: Matthew Nix

Rev. Matt Harrison's Post

[September 11\(2025\) at 4:23 PM](#)

A Few Thoughts After 15 Years as President of the LCMS

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

As I pulled into the gas station this a.m., I turned on the radio. There were interviews with children whose fathers were firemen, killed in 9/11. Oh my, I thought. Another anniversary of that horrid day. I remember it all too well. Within a week I was at ground zero. The LCMS provided a million dollars for the victims’ center in Manhattan. The controversy in the LCMS which ensued nearly broke my heart. Thank God we’ve moved beyond it and our approach to such situations constructed in the wake, has very largely kept us out of further internal controversy. Those were my LCMS World Relieve and Human Care days. So many tragedies came in the early 2000s. The great Asian Tsunami. I remember the smell of the dead scattered over the coastal plain of Sri Lanka. A fisherman there showed me the one wall left of his home after two 40-foot waves destroyed his entire village. A battered crucifix hung on the wall. He gave it to me. To this day it reminds me of the depth of sin which required the death of the Son of God to redeem. And our lives are like Jesus.’ Defined by the cross and the many crosses we endure with Christ in this life, ever pointing us to Jesus. The same in India and especially Indonesia where multi-story buildings collapsed like pancakes crushing the innocent. I’ll never forget Katrina, landing in a borrowed private jet in Baton Rouge, filled with chain saws as our people requested. Our people in New Orleans were amazing. They loved their neighbors. The mayor of New Orleans said several years ago, “If it weren’t for the Lutherans New Orleans would not be back yet today.” Our Camp Restore rebuilt thousands upon thousands of homes. There were many other tragedies. Hurricane after Hurricane. Fire and tornado. Always the great folks of the LCMS and their precious congregations rise to

the occasion with astounding generosity, given away to people in the clear name of Jesus Christ, while sharing his love and his gospel. I often thought, I’ve been privileged to see the suffering world, and so much more privileged to be the bearer of the mercy of God’s to people in terrible need. But sometimes I think I’ve seen too much. Yesterday was the tragic murder of Charlie Kirk. A confessing Christian murdered for political speech. I beheld the news in shock, bouncing between the reports of sorrow and vitriol, putting the worst possible construction on sound bites. Our world is deeply disordered. Families are disordered. Our governments are disordered. Immigration is disordered. Crime is an intense indicator of this disorder. The trans movement is inherently disordered. The middle east is disordered. Our beloved LCMS has given hundreds of millions of dollars for the care of people suffering tragedy and need, no matter their religious views. Yet vitriol is unleashed upon us for simply believing what the bible says about sex, about family, about decency. A few on our far edges say untoward things about race, failing to take into account the beautiful message of the N.T. that “God is no respecter of persons.” (Acts 10) And that repeatedly in the N.T. we see lists of early Christians which include multiple ethnicities from around the Mediterranean world. There is no N.T. argument against the freedom to marry among ethnicities, much less any such distinctions in the church. Jesus said, “Go therefore to all ETHNAE.” Some drink of the philosophy of the world on sexuality matters and fail to note the mandated

INSIDE

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Life Thoughts in the Church	2
In Our Prayers	2
LCMS Stewardship	3
Treasurer’s Report	4
Hymn of the day study	5
Kids in the Divine Service	6
Upcoming Events	6
Sermon, texts and hymns	7
Insert - Calendar	

(Continued on page 6)

BIRTHDAYS

09 Bernard Ewoldt
12 Tina Counts
14 Zoey Deutsch
16 Ruthie Wetzel
19 Austin Preheim
21 Les Britson
26 Susan Powell

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Eli & Amanda Fiddler
20 Duane & Bonnie Ellis
23 Daniel & Phyllis Monson

BAPTISMS

08 Emily Nix
17 Bonnie Ellis
19 Sienna Johnson
20 Blake Doohen

IN OUR PRAYERS

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



LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

(LUTHERANS FOR LIFE)

October 5 “We shouldn’t expect to know or understand the ways of God. We simply live in trust and ask God’s blessing on our lives of sanctification, lived in love and thanksgiving to Christ.” *Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 12 “We care about that precious baby, but we also care about the mom. We care about that woman who is haunted by the guilt and shame of a past abortion ... We care because Jesus cares for us. We love because God first loved us. And this we know! Our Lord Jesus—who died for us and took away all of our sin and guilt and shame—is risen and ascended to the Father’s throne. JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY’S WON!” *Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 19 “You and I are made for life, abundant and everlasting. And this Gospel is made for all our neighbors, every genetic member of humanity.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

October 26 “We need pro-life laws and alternative-to-abortion options to provide bridges and buy time for us to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ. Yet we cannot settle for a favorable court ruling, a strong piece of legislation, or a life-favoring politician ... Ultimately, though, changed hearts provide the alternative of eternal hope when despair and desperation tempt us to do bad things.” *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing

their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base

line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT September 29th, 2025

	<u>07/2025</u>	<u>08/2025</u>	<u>09/2025</u>
Deposits:	\$ 15,490.44	\$ 13,973.91	\$ 20,168.30
Disbursements:	\$ 73,605.54	\$ 12,322.70	\$ 18,339.99
Deposit Breakdown:			
General Fund:	\$ 15,481.44	\$ 13,966.91	\$ 18,967.30
Designated Funds:	\$ 9.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 1,201.00
Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 16,987.20	\$ 16,987.20	\$ 21,234.00
Mortgage Balance as of 09/29			\$ 29,929.42

Sacred Music 24/7



lutheranpublicradio.org



THANKS BE TO GOD

(Continued from page 5)

otherwise rob me of hope.

■ What spiritual habits (think exercise, nutrition) can keep us on a trajectory of growing in our relationship with God?

Genuine faith as portrayed in stanza 3, created by God's Word and Spirit, cannot be content to sit back and watch the world go by, but always seeks opportunities to serve God by loving our neighbor. The hymn mentions experiences that might be perceived as negative, such as persecution, grief and pain. How might they also become opportunities to serve our neighbors in love?

The end of life comes into the text as the fulfillment of faith, as Jesus takes us home and we inherit His riches. His keeping and His mercy are the focus from beginning to end.

■ Where else but in church, singing hymns of faith, do we ever think or speak about death and dying? What does the "end of faith" mean to you?

■ How does this kind of Christ-centered faith give you a view of death, and life after death, that sees what is invisible to the natural eye?

Making the Connection

While faith is clearly the main theme of our hymn, almost every area of the Christian life will be affected by whether we come to it with a man-centered or God-centered view. St. Paul says that the life he now lives in the body he lives by faith in the Son of God,

who loves him and gave Himself for him (Gal. 2:20).

■ What are some things we can do to remind ourselves throughout the day and week that all of life really revolves around God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

■ Take a few moments to read the great chapter on faith, Hebrews 11. How would seeing yourself with a similar faith change the way you pray about things, or the kind of risks you are willing to take?

In Closing

The Post-Communion Collect of the Divine Service prays: "We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another" (LSB, p. 201). At the weekly Eucharist, God does indeed strengthen us in true faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another.

■ Read aloud or sing together LSB 587.

Prayer

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, by Your grace hear the prayers of Your Church. Grant that those things which we ask in faith we may receive through Your bountiful mercy; 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 22C).

I Know My Faith Is Founded

Lutheran Service Book 587 | study by Paul F. Becker

Introduction

Most evangelical Christians think of faith in a man-centered way, as this previous Wikipedia entry illustrates, "... [faith] was an act of trust and self-abandonment in which people no longer rely on their own strength and policies but commit themselves to the power and guiding word of him in whom they believe."³

Lutheran Christians, on the other hand, hold a God-centered view of faith, as stated in the Augsburg Confession: "Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]. He works faith, when and where it pleases God [John 3:8], in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ's sake" (AC V 2–3, p. 33).

The question could not be more important, Will I rely on my personal acts of trust, self-abandonment and commitment, or will I turn to something outside myself, to Christ and the Holy Spirit working through the Word and promises of God? How we answer the question of faith will shape our view of salvation, personal growth in holiness, worship, mission, spiritual warfare and preparation for death and eternity.

This hymn delivers a very personal testimony and confession of trust in God that points to the blessing of keeping our focus on Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

- Discuss some of the consequences of a man-centered approach to Christianity.
- What are some of the challenges and blessings of a God centered view of Christian faith?

Exploring the Scriptures

In his 1522 "Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans," Martin Luther wrote: "Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1[:12–13]. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly" (AE 35:370). Read 2 Tim. 1:6–14.

- Notice the God-centered verbs: gave, saved, called, manifested, abolished death, brought life, appointed.
- What can we do? Find four actions for believers in

verses 6–14.

In John 17:8, Jesus says that three things have happened in those to whom the Father's words have been given. What happens when we welcome the gifts Christ freely gives?

Responding to His command to forgive those who sin against them, the disciples entreat the Lord, "Increase our faith!" (Luke 17:5). When our relationships become strained, what can strengthen them? See 1 Peter 1:3–9.

- Describe the hope you have because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- Have you or someone you know been grieved or distressed by various trials or even tested by fire? What impact did this have on your relationship with God?

Exploring the Hymn Background

Erdmann Neumeister (1671–1756), a Lutheran pastor in the age of Pietism, wrote several hymns and various cantata texts for the church year that were set to music by his contemporary J. S. Bach. Through his hymns and cantata texts, Pastor Neumeister preached the sure and certain comfort given in God's Word.

Text

At the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus contrasts two dwellings, one built on sand, and one built on solid rock (Matt. 7:24–27). The latter represents all those who hear His Word and practice it. Stanza 1 reflects this parable: "Unmoved I stand on His sure Word" versus the failure of using reason: "Who trusts in human wisdom / Relies on shifting ground." A clear choice between human and divine wisdom confronts us all. Our Lord promises that we will find rest for our souls, "rest secure" (st. 1), when we trust in His all-sufficient Word.

- Often the foundation of our lives remains hidden, unseen, until catastrophe strikes. Discuss how even natural storms, such as Hurricane Katrina, reveal the folly of trusting human wisdom.
- Why will human reason and human wisdom ultimately prove insufficient sources of security? In stanza 2, we see that faith built on God's Word is not static or inert, but dynamic, capable of growth and vulnerable to attack from the one who come to steal, kill, and destroy. As Jesus keeps His promise to be with me always, and the Holy Spirit leads and guides, I am undismayed, unafraid. Because God gets all the credit for my firmer faith, I can now defy what would

Continues on page 7

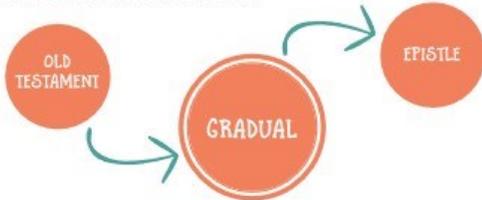
What is the “Gradual”?

The Gradual is the responsive reading that takes place between the Old Testament Reading and the Epistle Reading. The Gradual can be a Psalm or another portion of Scripture appropriate for the day.

Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

The word “Gradual” comes from the Latin word “gradus” which means “step.” As you can probably guess from its name, the Gradual is a stepping stone from one reading to another. In other words, after we read from God’s Word in the Old Testament, we use God’s Word in the Gradual to step to God’s Word in the Epistle. Wow!

There sure is a lot of God’s wonderful Word in the Divine Service!



Parents:

Before or after the Divine Service, direct your children to the Gradual for the day. Remind them to concentrate on God’s Word throughout the Divine Service.



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

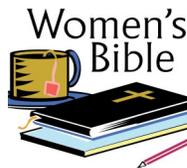
(Continued from page 1)

compassion of Jesus is grounded in his message, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is near,” which is meant for all. There is a failure to call for repentance and to reject disordered confusion of male and female in all aspects of life. Thank God these views are rather rare, and when I become aware of something contrary to our LCMS confession of the clear Scriptures, I contact the relevant District President, and the matter is engaged and most often resolved in short order. The world is filled with vitriol. The explosion of personal expression at the fingertips of every fool ready to state something untoward, uncharitable or biblically illiterate has made our life a mess. Often, I don’t speak into situations just because I tire of the half-cocked responses it’s guaranteed to receive. It’s a constant judgment call. Will it do more good than harm? “My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. “You said this about that, why not that about this?” The church is not in this game to see the world’s ethics, or to Christianize the government of the United States. We exist to proclaim the forgiveness of sins solely in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We confess that the N.T. calls us to be good citizens. We pray for our leaders according to Paul’s admonition. We work for good in our vocations. We participate as good citizens upholding reasonable, just and equitable laws.

The government has the power of the “sword” according to Romans 13. Christians may disagree about when and to what extent it is to be used in punishing crime, but they cannot disagree on the fundamental need for law and order. Governments grow from the 4th commandment. “Rulers” according to Luther are to enforce just laws, with decisiveness when called for, and with mercy when needed. Christians may disagree on immigration law and policy.

The LCMS has a long history of assisting immigrants. Right from the beginning our institutions welcomed Germans at the US harbors like Baltimore and connected them with LCMS Churches across the country. I recall in my youth my congregation assisting Southeast Asians fleeing communism. Many

(Continued on page 8)



Women of Christ Bible Study

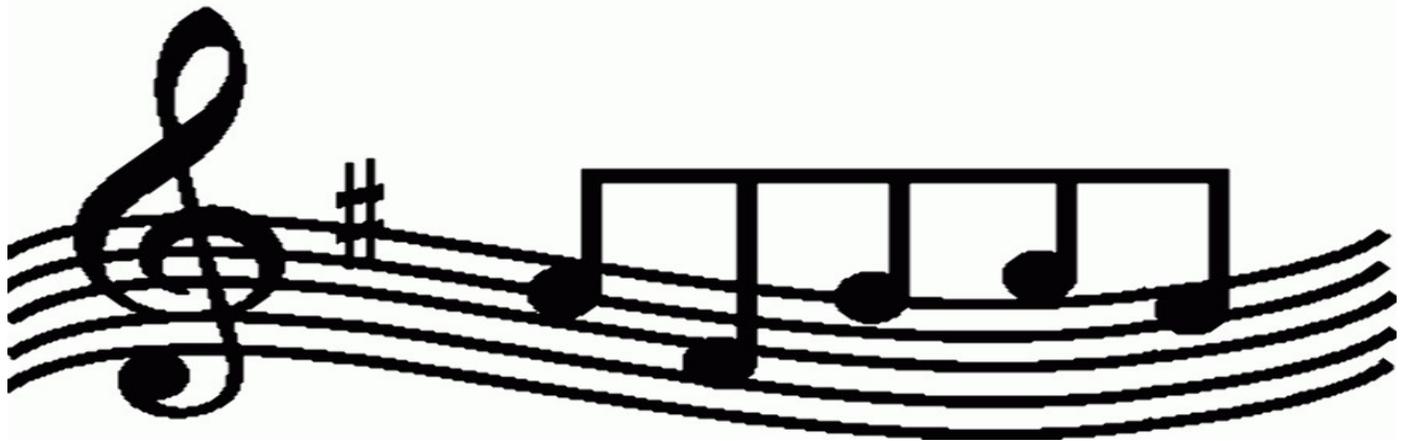
We are beginning our monthly Bible study again on Saturday, October 8th at 6:30pm. All the women of Christ are invited. .

UPCOMING 2025

- Nov 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends, 2am
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day Divine Service, 9:30 am
- Dec 3 Advent Service, 7pm
- Dec 10, 17, 22 Advent Services, 7pm
- Dec 14: Voters Meeting, after Divine Service
- Dec TBA 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

SERMON TEXT AND TITLES AND HYMN OF THE DAY FOR OCTOBER

October 5th Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 62 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:1-10	<i>“Have you done your duty?”</i> I Know My Faith is Founded	<i>St. Luke 17:10</i> LSB 587
October 12th Ruth 1:1-19a Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:1-13 Luke 17:11-19	<i>“Your faith has made you well!”</i> Your Hand, O Lord, in days of old	<i>St. Luke 17:19</i> LSB 846
October 19th Genesis 32:22-30 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	<i>“How persistent are you?”</i> I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name	<i>St. Luke 18:5</i> LSB 734
October 26th Revelation 14:6-7 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 St. John 8:31-36	 Salvation unto us has Come	 LSB 555



ADULT CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

Adult Choir Practice and Bell Choir practice will begin October 22nd 6:30-7:15. practice will rotate each week. 22nd-bells, 29th-vocal. Everyone is welcome to join either or both groups and be a part of the music ministry at Christ. Please talk to Lynette if you have any questions 605-351-3245.



(Continued from page 6)

of these people joined the LCMS and their children and grandchildren are still among us. I do not support uncontrolled immigration.

I think it's vital to retain Western Christian influenced culture and its wonderful blessings. But we Lutherans do not exist to "Christianize the state." Our Augsburg Confession says the state and church are not to be "mixed." I worry, frankly, about Muslim immigration and the orthodox Muslim denial of the two kingdoms. But some evangelicals have the same dogma! A great many of the decisions of the nature of state and law, are left to sanctified individual choice and action, biblically informed.

It was while I was at the gas station that an old friend texted me: "Congratulations on your 15th anniversary serving as the President of the LCMS." I had not recalled THAT midst all the other things blaring into our lives. I thanked him.

I learned something as a very young pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Westgate, Iowa. Town of 200 and parish of 440 when I left. No matter how hard you try, you can't make everyone happy. I by nature do not like controversy. I don't like to displease folks. But something trumps that aspect of my personality. I am a man under orders. I'm a called minister of Christ, yoked by him. It is my deepest desire – and has been since I was a young pastor – that the LCMS simply be who we say we are. We have a solid basis, THE solid basis of the blessed, inerrant Scriptures. We have the rock-solid confession of the Book of Concord built squarely on those confessions. I and every pastor and congregation of the LCMS has pledged to believe, teach, confess and act according to that confession.

In this life it's always a matter of becoming not being. Every day I wake up and resolve by God's grace to do the right thing, no matter what. Decisions often fall on my desk after they have become nearly unsolvable matters. My only desire is to serve faithfully, come what may. Midst all the many difficulties I have made mistakes. Daily I plead for forgiveness and strength to do what is right. I plead the Psalms daily.

My greatest worry is thanklessness. Luther said several times that the gospel passes away from a people and a place for thanklessness. We see that reality in the U.S., long the source of genuine Christian mission around the globe. But church after church, institution after institution has lost its Christian moorings. Once Christian universities and charities have lost Christ. I worry when I see thanklessness in the LCMS. In many ways we are much stronger than we were when I began this vocation as president. The COP is much stronger. Our seminaries are stronger. Our universities are stronger and closer to the church. Our world mission is stronger. Our leadership of world confessional Lutheranism is stronger. Our finances are stronger. Our publishing house is stronger. Much more could be noted. I am thankful. I am thankful for the crosses which so often reduce me to nothing. I cleave to Christ and his word. I believe our public confession to the depth of my heart. And I'm thankful for you. Thank you for 15 incredible years.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

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

