



## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Lutheran Service Book 411 | study by Charles Gustafson

### Introduction

Edith Wharton, Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction, once quipped, “There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”<sup>3</sup> Today’s hymn expresses the desire to be able to shine with a special light, the light of Christ Jesus.

- What light has Jesus shed upon our world?
- Do you think that being a child of the light is the ability to reflect the light of Christ or the simple emanating of His light from within? Is there a difference?

### Exploring the Scriptures

The main text for this hymn is 2 Cor. 4:4–6. Take a moment to read the text. Paul talks about God and what He has done.

- How has “the god of this world” (Satan) kept people from seeing the light of the Gospel?
- What darkness is Paul referring to in verse 6, and what does it mean for you personally that God has power over cosmic darkness?
- According to verse 5, for whose benefit is it that God would allow His light to shine through us?

Another Scripture noted as a basis for this hymn is 1 John 1:5. It states that God is light.

- What does it mean to you that God is light?
- Does the presence of light mean that there can be no darkness at all?

If you read further in 1 John 1, you will notice how the metaphors of light and darkness are being used.

- For what is light a metaphor?

For what is darkness a metaphor?

- What determines with whom we have fellowship?

### Exploring the Hymn Background

Often, in the confrontations with everyday living, we allow our minds to travel into realms of thought we call “meditation.” These periods can come at designated times or they can be given to us from the Spirit of God as we are attempting to achieve some goal or task.

Kathleen Thomerson, author of this hymn, was packing to take her mother and family to Houston, Texas, to get away from the heat and darkness caused by the rolling brownouts of St. Louis, Missouri. Once in Houston she would find air conditioning and comfort in the home of her mother. It was during the business of packing for the trip that her mind wandered and the words of the hymn text began to form. The completion of the text happened after they all arrived at the relief of familiar surroundings.

- Do you believe that God can speak to you at any time?
- Can you give any examples of God speaking to people in Scripture when they were least expecting any voice at all? (Cf. 1 Samuel 3.)

Brownouts can cause a sense of fear, especially at night when there is no natural light available. They can remind us of how all of life would be if we were always living in darkness.

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## BIRTHDAYS

### OCTOBER

9 Bernard Ewoldt  
10 Jason Clare  
11 Haylin Robison  
12 Tina Counts  
14 Zoey Deutsch  
16 Ruthie Wetzel  
19 Austin Preheim  
21 Les Britson  
26 Susan Powell

## ANNIVERSARIES

### OCTOBER

02 Eli & Amanda Fiddler  
20 Duane & Bonnie Ellis  
23 Daniel & Phyllis Monson  
31 Phillip & Miranda Flugge

## BAPTISMS

08 Avery Clark  
08 Emily Nix  
17 Lynn Clark  
17 Bonnie Ellis  
19 Sienna Johnson  
20 Blake Doochen

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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



## LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR (LUTHERANS FOR LIFE)

**October 4** “Your life is valuable, and your life has purpose. It was not an accident; it was planned from the beginning. But that doesn’t mean it will be easy. You will experience hardship and suffering. As you age, your body will wear out. Your mind will dull. Your abilities will lessen. And yet, it is in your body with all of its brokenness that the Holy Spirit resides. It is this, your body, that God the Father formed by hand, and it is this, your body, that Jesus, God’s Son, redeemed. And your body, a unique and miraculous gift, will be raised from the dead and made new.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**October 11** “Whether the sin of aborting one’s child or the sin of remaining silent and not speaking on behalf of our unborn children, whether the sin of neglecting an aging parent or even—God forbid—encouraging them to consider physician-assisted suicide as an option, whether the sin of apathy toward the gross evil and immorality in the world—turn to Jesus! There is forgiveness to be found for every sin, but it is only found in Jesus. Only in that holy blood, shed for us on the cross, do we find the antidote for the poison of sin.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**October 18** “Do not be silent. You have the most positive, powerful, life-giving, and life-affirming message in the universe! It is a message of love for every sinner, i.e., everyone! It is a message of forgiveness for everyone and every sin. It is a message of the certain hope of a paradise whose reality surpasses the most beautiful of words.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**October 25** “Today God continues to defend and aid His people, those who trust in His Son as their Savior. God is ever with us. He preserves His Word and Church despite the constant attack of the devil, the unbelieving world, and false teachers. God provides for all our needs of body and soul, even in times of great need and conflict. God is our refuge. His Word endures forever. His grace and power never fail.” *From “Meditations on Favorite Scriptures: Devotions for a Year” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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## **It's in the Way that You Use It** *Originally Published October 2023*

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

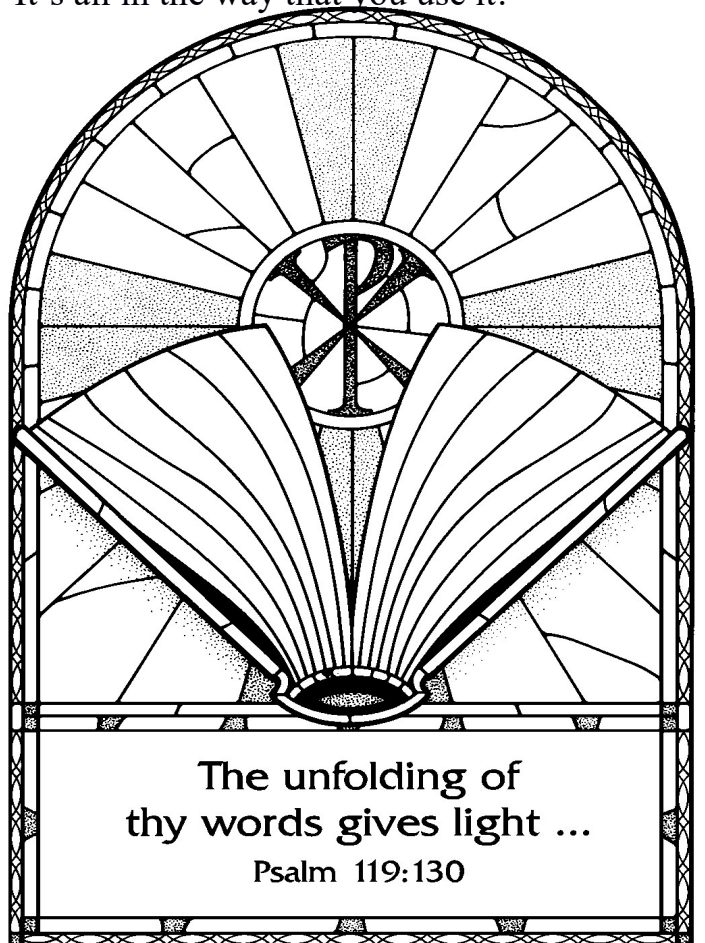
"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to

use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

|                                     | <u>07/2026</u> | <u>08/2026</u> | <u>09/2026</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Deposits:</b>                    | \$ 28,955.66   | \$ 12,775.98   | \$ 4,649.31    |
| <b>Disbursements:</b>               | \$ 14,812.33   | \$ 31,193.51   | \$ 15,580.36   |
| <b>Deposit Breakdown:</b>           |                |                |                |
| <b>General Fund:</b>                | \$ 26,448.66   | \$ 10,268.98   | \$ 4,646.31    |
| <b>Designated Funds:</b>            | \$ 2,507.00    | \$ 2,507.00    | \$ 3.00        |
| <b>Monthly Budget Requirement:</b>  | \$ 23,142.85   | \$ 18,514.28   | \$ 18,514.28   |
| <b>Mortgage Balance as of 09/25</b> |                |                | \$ 2,219.92    |

## Come Down, O Love Divine

### Lutheran Service Book 501 | study by Paul F. Becker

#### Introduction

The Lutheran Confessions describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit in some detail.

“Faith brings the Holy Spirit and produces a new life in hearts. It must also produce spiritual movements in hearts. ... Therefore, when we have been justified by faith and regenerated, we begin to fear and love God, to pray to Him, to expect aid from Him, to give thanks and praise Him, and to obey Him in times of suffering. We also begin to love our neighbors, because our hearts have spiritual and holy movements” (Ap V 4, p. 102).

Likewise, in the Eastern Church the following is included in the daily prayers:

“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit Truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life—come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.”<sup>2</sup>

Our hymn today summarizes and describes how the Holy Spirit works changes both in the inward being and outward living of each child of God.

- ☐ Why is it important for “Love Divine” to come and abide in us? How do things like love, joy and peace become part of our lives?

- ☐ How does “Love Divine” bring about even “obedience in times of suffering” and help us see this as working together for our good?

#### Exploring the Scriptures

God’s Word gives us unique insights into the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Read Ezek. 36:25–28.

- ☐ In verses 25–26, how is the Sacrament of Holy Baptism foretold? What metaphor is used to describe the miracle of rebirth?
- ☐ What specific verbs/actions are ascribed to God? To us?

Jesus indicates that we will stay close to the Father and the Son by the Holy Spirit. Read John 14:16–17, 23–27.

- ☐ What names does Jesus give the Holy Spirit? In what ways will the Spirit be a “Helper” to us?
- ☐ How does the Spirit help us love Jesus and keep His words?

By the Spirit’s presence, we “begin also to love our neighbors.” Read Rom. 12:9–15.

- ☐ When charity becomes our “outward vesture” (st. 3), what specific activities can be expected?
- ☐ Remember a time in your life when the Spirit helped you love a neighbor in a difficult situation.

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## Exploring the Hymn Background

Little is known about the author of our text, Bianco da Siena (c. 1350–1434) except for a collection of ninety-two poems entitled *Laudi spirituali*, literally, “spiritual praises,” or songs. These simple songs, sung in Italian, were composed by members of lay organizations of a devotional or religious nature.

Apparently, members of such orders made promises to pursue poverty, humility and charity. Living a relatively long life of eighty-plus years in a time known for its wars and plagues could not have been easy by any means.

- ☐ Discuss various lay organizations available to believers today (e.g., Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, Lutheran Laymen’s League, etc.) and what kind of Christian life they promote.
- ☐ Bianco da Siena joined his order at the early age of seventeen. How can we encourage young people today to take their Christian vocation seriously?

## Text

This hymn text overflows with action words (verbs) attributed to God the Holy Spirit, love divine — come, seek, visit, draw near, appear, kindle, bestowing — all in stanza 1. The action continues in stanza 2 as the fire of divine love consumes worldly passions and illumines our path.

We live in an age that makes two common false assumptions: that people are basically good and that I can “decide” to become a Christian — “I prayed to ask Jesus into my heart.” How does our text overturn such thinking? Does it matter what hymns we sing?

“Thy holy flame” recalls the Day of Pentecost when “divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them” (Acts 2:3). Read Titus 3:4–7.

- ☐ How and when does Pentecost become personal for a Christian? Talk about keeping the creative tension of a connection between the individual and churchly nature of the Spirit’s work.

After His Baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Isn’t life very much the same for us? Read Rom. 5:1–5.

- ☐ Note the sequence: suffering, endurance, character, hope. Several hymnals omit stanza 3, which mentions things like lowliness, humility and weeping with loathing over personal shortcomings. While

not painting a very pretty picture, our Lutheran theology has a certain grounding in reality that offers a blessing. How would you describe that blessing to someone who felt this language is too “negative”?

## Making the Connection

The soul “Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling” (st. 4) refers to us: “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Not only the soul, but the body also: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?” (1 Cor. 6:19).

- ☐ What gifts does Christ give to assure us that He abides in us and we in Him? Read 1 Cor. 10:16.
- ☐ In his letter to the Galatians, Paul speaks of the Spirit’s fruit that, as it grows, “shall far outpass the pow’r of human telling” (st. 4). “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Gal. 5:22–23).
- ☐ Pick one or two of these fruits and describe an experience in which “His grace” produced something of “love divine” in your life.

## In Closing

St. Paul concludes his letter to the Church in Rome with references to the critical importance of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 14:17). “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Rom. 15:13).

- ☐ With these Scriptures in mind, sing or read aloud together LSB 501.

## Prayer

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for Proper 19A).

## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

### What is the "Offering"?

This is the time during the service when we offer gifts to God with the rest of the congregation. The Offering is concluded with the *Offertory*, which is the song that we sing while these gifts are being presented at the altar.



### Why do we give some of our money to the Church?

The money that we give goes to help support all the work of the church. If you think about it, all that we have is a gift from God. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts. As

Christians, we give to God in response to what He has given to us: life; food; family; and, most important, our Savior Jesus! We don't give because we have to, we give because, in faith, we want to!



**Parents:** Before the Divine Service, remind your children what giving to the Offering means. Help them to think of all the things that they have and how they are really gifts from God. Encourage them to set aside a certain amount of their own money each week to give.



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## UPCOMING 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

(Continued from page 1)

- List several things that bother you when the lights go out.
- How does the appearance of light change those things, and how do you feel when things are changed because of the appearance of light?

### Text

The hymn text seems to have a very personal quality to it as each stanza begins with the first-person singular. There is a sense of personal desire captured in the words, "I want to" along with the constant references to "my" in the hymn writer's poetry.

- Do you find your faith and its expression to be something quite personal, or is it public, or is it both? Explain how your faith can be both.

The very first stanza draws from 2 Cor. 4:6, which recalls for the reader Gen. 1:1–3, 14–19.

- Why do you think that God gave light to the world?
- Is darkness something associated with chaos ("without form and void," Gen. 1:2)?
- Is there a different type of darkness still causing chaos within our world today? What forms might the darkness take on?
- In John 8:12 Jesus calls Himself "the light of the world." How does Jesus deal with different forms of darkness mentioned in your answer to the previous question?

The second verse draws upon the image in Mal. 4:2, which reminds us that the "sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." This image is also called upon in a popular Christmas hymn, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

- How does the "Sun of Righteousness" show us the way to the Father? What healing must take place before we can come to the Father?

The final stanza speaks to the Last Day, the coming of Christ. Until that time comes, the letter to the Hebrews (12:1–2) reminds us to persevere in running the race of life before us. The hymn writer was reflecting upon this concept when she penned, "When we have run with patience the race" (st. 3).

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## SERMON TEXT AND TITLES AND HYMN OF THE DAY FOR OCTOBER

### October 4th

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-19  
Philippians 3:4-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

*"Once and Done?"*

O Love, How Deep

St. Matthew 21:43

LSB 544

### October 11th

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:4-13  
Matthew 22:1-14

*"What would bring you to the wedding Feast?" St. Matthew 22:3, 6, 7, 10, 11*

A Multitude Comes from the East and the West LSB 510

### October 18th

Isaiah 45:1-7  
Psalm 96:1-13  
1 thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

*"They are still sent to heal the sick"*

St. Luke 10:9

O God of God, O Light of Light

LSB 810

### October 25th

Revelation 14:6-7  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3:19-28  
St. John 8:31-36

*"Freedom is more than a state of mind!" St. John 8:36*

Lord, Keep us steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

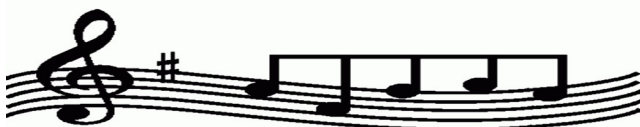


## VOCAL CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

Choir practices will start October 7th.  
Bells at 6:30 and  
Vocal at 7:00.  
New members

are always welcome, Please join us.

Please talk to Lynette if you have any questions 605-351-3245.



*(Continued from page 6)*

- How do you show patience in running the race?
- How does looking to Jesus help you to persevere in running or continuing on instead of giving in or quitting?

### **Making the Connection**

The refrain of the hymn is the unifying and foundational theme for the hymn. It points out the object of our faith as well as its substance. The hymn engages themes of Epiphany (the manifestation of Jesus), Advent (the coming of the Christ at the parousia) and justification and sanctification.

- Which of the themes speaks the loudest to you as you consider the hymn as a whole?

The refrain encourages us to confess the purity of Christ and the power of His perfect love, which is light to the world. The author calls upon imagery from Revelation that confirms the truth that this light never goes out but shines forever and ever. The refrain nuances in poetic form what St. Paul reminds the Ephesians, “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (3:17a).

- How does the one who separated the darkness, and the one who was at the beginning, who became flesh, bring His light into our lives? Is it through His Word? Is it through Baptism? Is it through the Eucharist? Is it through the consolation of the brethren? Are these Gospel tools meaningful to you?

In the Small Catechism, Luther reminds the Church that the Holy Spirit “has called me by the Gospel ... in the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (LSB, p. 323).

### **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**MEMBER: ISSUES ETC 300**

**PASTOR: MATTHEW NIX**

- Can you walk as a child of the light without “the Light” as a part of your life?
- In the end, is the desire to walk as a child of the light a response to God’s grace already at work in you and begun at Baptism?

### **In Closing**

It is said that the tune for this song has a childlike simplicity. There is another song which has been sung by children for years and has endeared itself to the hearts of many. It is called “This Little Gospel Light of Mine.”

- Take some time to remember the first verse of this childhood song, sing it and compare it to the refrain from the hymn being studied. Consider the differences and similarities between the two.
- Finally, write a list of the ways you are going to let the light of Christ shine through your heart today and through the days to follow until the next time you meet.
- Sing or read aloud together LSB 411.

### **Prayer**

O God, You have commanded us to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in Your sight, that our faith in You may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; 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 25A).

