

# GOOD NEWS

FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2026

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lutheran Service Book 425/426 | study by David R. Schmitt

### Introduction

Christians have often placed crosses in their churches. They may be large and beautifully sculpted or small and simply adorned, but each cross has a way of telling the story of salvation. Each cross is a visible reminder of how God the Father revealed His saving love for the world in Jesus Christ.

For example, above the altar of the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence stands a famous fresco. The fresco depicts the crucifixion of Jesus. Below the cross stand Mary and John. On the cross hangs Jesus. But, most importantly, behind the cross is God the Father. He looks down at us from above the cross. His arms are stretched out in love. First, they are stretched out in love for His Son, Jesus. The Father's hands rest under the outstretched arms of Jesus, as if God the Father were supporting God the Son in His sacrifice for the world. Second, His arms are stretched out in love toward the worshipers, as God the Father is giving the sacrifice of His Son for the salvation of the world. All of this occurs under a large Roman arch of triumph. Here, we see that this gracious, self-giving love of God the Father and the Son is the triumph over sin, death and hell that God freely gives in love to the world.

Each cross tells a story, and each time we see a cross we are invited to contemplate that story and share with one another the love of God.

■ Describe some of the crosses that you see in your church or home. What do they look like?

How do these crosses tell the story of salvation to us and to others?

### Exploring the Scriptures

For the apostle Paul, the cross was not an object of art. It was an instrument of execution. Those who died on the cross were known to be criminals, convicted of the most serious crimes, and therefore subjected to a punishment that left them naked, mocked, dehumanized and shamed on the side of the road for all to see. Crosses were objects of horror not beauty, and those who hung on them were despised not celebrated. Paul, however, confesses a radically different understanding of the cross of Jesus. Read Gal. 6:14–15.

■ Why would it be strange for Jews or Greeks to boast in the cross? (See 1 Cor. 1:18–25.)

■ What did God do on the cross that makes it something Paul celebrates? (See 2 Cor. 5:14–21.) Paul has seen the gracious work of Jesus on the cross: how Jesus bore the eternal punishment of our sin so that He might bestow on us eternal life in His name. Seeing this work of God changes the way Paul looks at himself and at the world. Read Phil. 3:3–11.

■ How does Paul value his life differently because of the gift of righteousness that is his through the death and resurrection of Jesus?

■ How does Paul value his work in the world differently? (See Gal. 6:14–15.)

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## BIRTHDAYS

04 Sarah Deutsch  
10 Matthew Arlton  
10 Laenie Fick  
11 David Wetzel  
13 Phyllis Monson  
14 Sadrine Na Kirindo  
14 Jay Wehking  
21 Cherie Zehendner  
22 Dustin Preheim  
23 Alia Robison  
26 Jordan Brack  
26 Samuel Fick  
26 Victor Wedeking

## BAPTISMS

03 Matthew Wedeking  
04 Tamerha Miller  
11 Luther Brack  
11 Eloise Fick  
14 ESTELLE CLARE  
17 Philip Fick  
20 Thomas Clauson  
27 Matthew Arlton  
29 Sarah Deutsch

## ANNIVERSARIES

14 Phil & Monica Andreasen  
19 Les & Vickie Britson  
24 Melanie & Ryan Hericks

## FLOWER CHART

The 2026 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 Cherie Zehendner.



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## LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

**April 5** “As Christians, we rejoice in the Savior who shines light on our lives when we only expected inky blackness. May God’s strong Word remind us that the fullness of life is meant to be lived in the light. In our weakness, may the Lord bring alongside us faithful brothers and sisters to proclaim that God is light and life to us, and let us walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). In Jesus we have light, and to have light is to have life. May we rejoice in proclaiming the message of Jesus as the Apostle John did. Thanks be to God that He is light, and He shines in the darkness.” *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**April 12** “The cross that held Jesus’ body exposed all the sin, violence, and injustice of this world for what it is. At once, the cross revealed what kind of world we have and what kind of God we have: a world of gross unfairness but also a God of sacrificial love.” *Rev. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**April 19** “Sin has made an impact on human conception: Babies are conceived that the parents do not want, and parents who desperately want children do not conceive. Yet, I do not believe for one moment that there is ever an unplanned pregnancy. God personally knows every child even before conception. He has a plan to create, redeem, and call that child into a relationship with Him.” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**April 26** “Sin and shame and guilt are taken away by one thing only—the blood of Jesus Christ—which cleanses us from all sin. Our sins have already been punished in Him, on that cross. Jesus bodily rose from the tomb so that we would know that now even death itself cannot harm those who belong to Jesus and trust in Him alone, for as He lives, so we live as well.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



## Women’s Brunch

All the Women of Christ Lutheran—We are holding a brunch for the women of Christ and a female member of their family on Saturday, April 18th at 9:30am. There will be good food, devotion, fellowship and some mixers.



# STEWARDSHIP

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – April 2025

## A Better Way

*Originally published in April 2023*

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

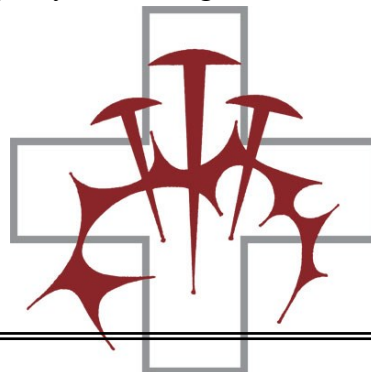
But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

	01/2026	02/2026	03/2026
<b>Deposits:</b>	\$ 11,678.00	\$ 22,362.52	\$ 13,351.47
<b>Disbursements:</b>	\$ 20,879.90	\$ 20,515.87	\$ 17,871.25
<b>Deposit Breakdown:</b>			
<b>General Fund:</b>	\$ 11,672.00	\$ 19,362.52	\$ 13,134.47
<b>Designated Funds:</b>	\$ 6.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 217.00
<b>Monthly Budget Requirement:</b>	\$ 18,514.28	\$ 18,514.28	\$ 23,142.85
<b>Mortgage Balance as of 03/26</b>			\$ 16,308.14

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Mildred Corey, at home

Susan Powell, at home

Elva Clauson, at home

Denny Tellinghuisen, at home



**Coming Soon,  
Young Adult Game  
Night. Details to**

*(Continued from page 1)*

■ How do we value our lives and our work in the world differently because of the death and resurrection of Jesus?

**Exploring the Hymn**

**Background**

When Isaac Watts (1674–1748), a minister famous for his teaching and his hymnody, first published his hymns, he divided them into three classifications: hymns that paraphrased texts of Scripture, hymns that treated divine subjects, and hymns that prepared for the Lord's Supper. By providing a scriptural citation and title for this hymn, Watts indicated that it paraphrased Gal. 6:14.

■ What explicit connections to Gal. 6:14 do you see in the hymn?

■ What connections to Gal. 6:14 does Watts expand in his hymn?

■ How do these expansions encourage you to meditate more fully upon Paul's words?

While this hymn paraphrases Gal. 6:14, Watts did not include it in the section of hymns that paraphrased Scripture. Instead, Watts included this hymn among those that prepared people for the Lord's Supper.

■ How does reading and contemplating this hymn in relation to the Lord's Supper deepen the meaning of references to the body and blood of Christ, the flowing of sorrow and love, the power of Christ's amazing love, and the transformation of one's life?

■ How does this hymn prepare you to receive the body and blood of your Savior in the Lord's Supper?

**Text**

The first line of the hymn points to one single action: The poet will "survey the wondrous cross."

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## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



### What is the date today?

Usually when someone asks this question, you might look to a calendar for the answer. The date might help determine what to wear, where to go, and what you might do. For example, if the date were January 15, you might decide to wear warm winter clothes. If it were July 12, your family might have a picnic. Calendars help keep things in order.



### What does this have to do with the Divine Service?

The Church's calendar determines much of what happens in worship each Sunday (like the colors in the Sanctuary, or the readings for the day). The Church has its own calendar and its own seasons. The Church's seasons are based on the different events in the life of Christ and His Church. Instead of Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring, the Church's calendar has Advent, Christmas, Lent and many more. This calendar helps put order to the seasons and festivals of the Church.



**Parents:** Before or after the service, direct your children to the front of the hymnal to find the liturgical calendar. Go through the calendar and discuss the different seasons. Remind them that many of the special dates we have on our everyday calendars come from the liturgical calendar, i.e. Christmas, Easter, etc.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

- April 02 Maundy Thursday Divine Service, 7pm
- April 03 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7pm
- April 05 Easter Sunrise Matins Service, 7am
- April 05 Easter Breakfast, 8am
- April 05 Easter Festival Divine Service, 9:30am
- May 10 Mothers' Day Breakfast
- May 14 Ascension Day Divine Service 7pm
- June 14 Voters Meeting
- July 19-22?? 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
- No New Year's Eve/Day Service
- Jan 06, Epiphany Divine Service 7pm

*(Continued from page 4)*

The word "survey" has two meanings. First, it involves an exacting inspection of particulars (as a person might ask you to fill out all of the questions on a survey); second, it implies a comprehensive evaluation of the whole (as a person might survey a plot of land). For the poet, these two actions relate to one another. By closely examining one thing, Watts finds that he re-examines everything. By closely looking at the cross, he re-examines his life, the world and the love of God for all humanity.

In stanzas 1 and 2, the poet sees the glory of God ("Prince of Glory") joined to a shameful death on the cross. This self-sacrificial love of God causes the poet to reconsider his life in the world.

**GOOD NEWS**

- Before seeing God's love on the cross, what power did the world have upon the poet?
- How does the poet respond to the riches and vanity of the world now that he has experienced God's love for him?
- How do you count gain to be loss, pour contempt on pride, and sacrifice the vanity of this world because of the saving work of God?

In stanzas 3 and 4, the poet pauses to survey the cross and then to survey his life in the world. Consider the poet's survey of the cross in stanza 3.

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# R

# Seminaries announce Call Day plans

[Reporter Staff](#)

*Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matt. 9:37–38).*



**The seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have announced plans for their annual assignment and call services.**

## Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL)

- Assignment of Vicarages and Diaconess Interns — Tuesday, April 28, 3 p.m. Central
- Assignment of Calls — Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m. Central

Services will be held in CSL’s Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. Both services will be livestreamed at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live) as well as on the seminary’s Facebook and YouTube pages. For more details, and a complete listing of assignments and calls following the services, visit [csl.edu/call-day](https://csl.edu/call-day).

## Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)

- Vicarage and Diaconess Intern Assignment Service — Tues., April 28, 7 p.m. Eastern
- Candidate Placement Service — Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m. Eastern.

Services will be held in CTSFW’s Kramer Chapel. Both services will be livestreamed on CTSFW’s Call Day and chapel pages and on the seminary’s Facebook page. After the services, full lists of assignments and calls, along with photos of students and assignments by district and an interactive placement map, will be posted at [ctsfw.edu/callday](https://ctsfw.edu/callday).

You are invited to join in the celebration of Call Day by sharing photos and video of your in-home celebrations on social media by using #callday2026.

Please pray the Lord’s blessings on all the candidates and their families as they prepare for their first calls and assignments.

# March 'Witness' explores doctrine of vocation

Stacey Eising

March 12, 2026

Have you ever worried that your everyday, humdrum work is distracting you from more important things? Maybe you've thought, "If I were a pastor or a deaconess, my daily work would keep me in constant contact with God and His Word. But as a lawyer, a mechanic, a doctor, a stay-at-home mother — it can feel like almost all of my time is used up just trying to get through the day's work. I only have a few minutes here and there to serve God and come to Him in prayer. Did I choose the wrong line of work?"

For such concerns, Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions offer great consolation. "If you perform your daily domestic task, this is better than all the sanctity and ascetic life of monks," wrote Luther in his Large Catechism (LC I 145). As Dr. Gene Veith writes in the March issue of *The Lutheran Witness (LW)*, vocation was "at the heart of the Christian life" for Martin Luther.

By "vocation," Luther didn't refer just to a religious calling. He didn't even refer only to the various jobs a person might have. Luther considered every God-given role in a Christian's life as a part of his or her calling — the work of a mother caring for her child is just as God-pleasing as a pastor consecrating the elements. "Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him," as Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians (7:17).

This issue of *LW* explores the Lutheran doctrine of vocation. Veith gives an overview of the doctrine of vocation; David Van Rooy and Dr. Donna Harrison give us a look into how two specific jobs (military and medical service) are God-

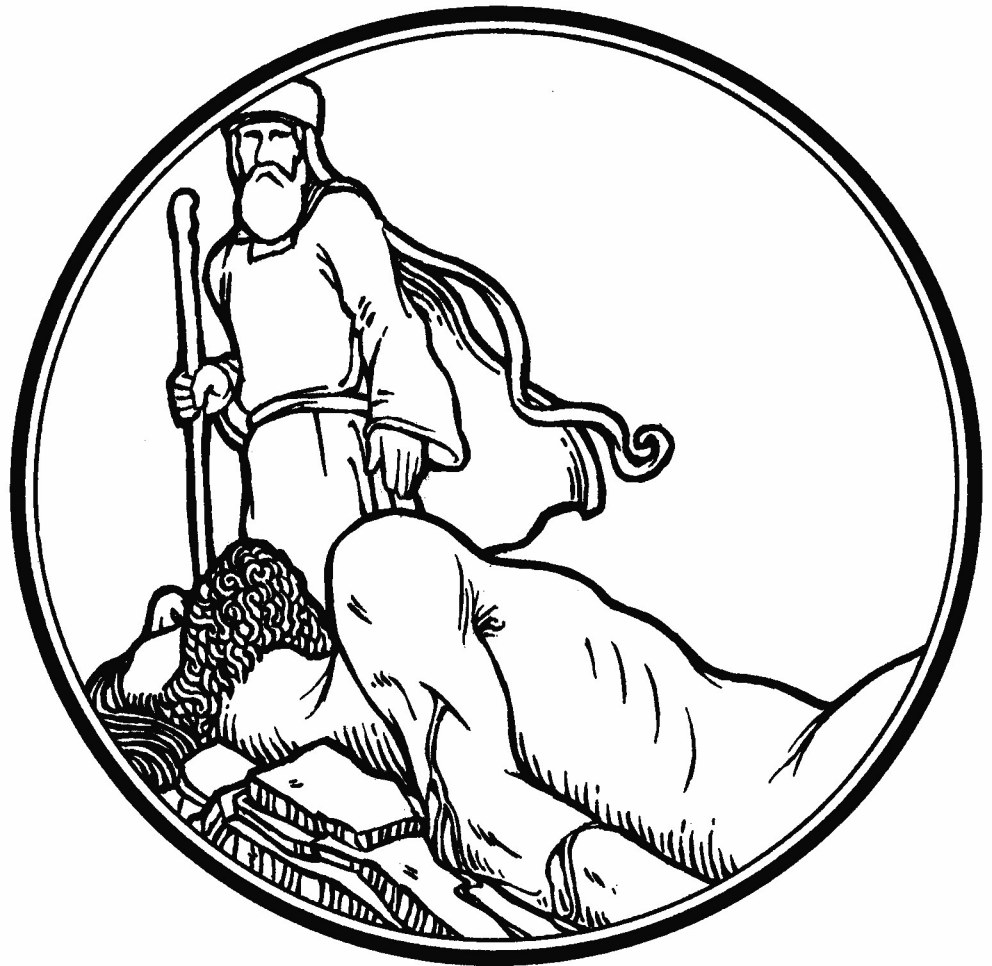
pleasing vocations; the Rev. Aaron Moldenhauer unpacks the roles of the pastors and laity in the church; and the Rev. Roy Askins challenges the notion that God has one path picked out for our life that we have to discover.

"Making the right choice, in the end, is not a matter of discovering a hidden plan, secreted away in the mind of God, but rather of being in the Word," Askins writes.

We hope this issue will be a blessing to you as you faithfully forge on in "the life that the Lord has assigned" to you.

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Posted March 12, 2026



*(Continued from page 5)*

- When the poet looks at the cross, what does he physically see?
- How is this vision a slow and careful inspection of the particulars of the crucifixion?
- With the words “sorrow and love,” the poet offers us a glimpse of his spiritual vision. How do these words relate to what Jesus is doing for us as He dies on the cross?

Consider the poet’s survey of the world in stanza 4.

- As the poet views the world, he has an expansive vision (“the whole realm of nature”). Why would the entire creation not be a fitting tribute for the poet to bring to Christ?
- What does the Prince of Glory, who already rules over all creation, truly desire?
- What did He do for you that you might be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom?

### Making the Connection

When the apostle Paul looked at the cross, he saw a paradoxical vision. The cross that the world despised, he rejoiced in because it was the way of salvation; the way of life the world rejoiced in, he despised in order to follow God’s humble and lowly way.

This hymn puts into song Paul’s paradoxical vision. The Prince of Glory, who rules over all creation, has chosen to die for us, His sinful creatures; we, like the poet, rejoice in His sorrowful love and follow in humble service, even though all of this is despised by the world.

- What story does our world tell about God and love?
- How does our story differ when we include Jesus and the cross?
- How do you share the story of the cross by the way you live in the world?

### In Closing

Crosses adorn our churches, and when we see a cross, it is good to stop and look, to gaze in wonder, not at the beauty of the cross but at the depth of God’s love in the story that it tells. Even when a cross is not before our eyes, however, we can keep it before our heart in song, contemplating anew the wonder of God’s saving love for the world.

- Sing or read together LSB 425/426.

### Prayer

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for Holy Cross Day).

## Sermon Text and Titles

April 2	“Is it I”?	Matthew 26:25
3	How do you prepare for “new Birth”?	John 19:39
5	Have you Thought Jesus was someone else?	John 20:15
5	Jesus Greets you too!	Matthew 28:9
12	Jesus enters you locked doors too!	John 20:19
19	What do you know of Jesus?	Luke 24:19
26	If you are surprised raise you hand.	John 10:6

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