



THE LORD IS THE  
**STRONGHOLD**  
OF MY LIFE.  
PSALM 27:1

# The Beacon

February  
2025

Christ Ev. Lutheran  
Church

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54880

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Divine Worship  
Services  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.



Once in a while I give you essays from other writers. This one is from Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, former Lutheran Hour Speaker. He is now our representative in Washington D.C., called there by our Synodical president Matthew Harrison to help assure that our right to practice our Christian faith is preserved. I encourage you to subscribe to LCRL Freedom so that you know what is going on in our national government and can pray for God's care and blessing on our nation! In Christ, Pastor Schield

## An "All the Way" Savior -- That's What We Need!

Substitution. That's a biblical truth that really hits home for me today. Why? There are times in my life when I realize that my best efforts just aren't good enough; my heartfelt tries still miss the mark. Something just isn't right, and it doesn't seem that I can overcome the problem at all. It's like I'm trying to swim, but the cold waters are numbing my limbs and preventing me from staying afloat; or the waves of warm waters are pounding me to the ocean's depths, preventing me from gasping the air I so desperately need. At times like those, one needs help from above, help from outside. What an incredible thing it is when, just at that moment, someone else jumps in and faces the destructive power of the water so that I might come out of it alive and well. Substitution. It matters when your life depends on it.

To illustrate the powerful principle of substitution, George Sweeting, Chancellor of Moody Bible Institute, told a story of salvation that happened amidst a series of fast moving, destructive tornados in western Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>. Nearly 100 lives were lost because of the storms, but one little girl from Wheatland, Pennsylvania was saved. Her uncle, a man named David Kostka, was umpiring a Little League baseball game when he saw the black funnel cloud barreling toward the field. He tore off his gear, rushed into the stands, grabbed his niece, pushed her into a nearby ditch, and covered her with his body. Minutes later the tornado struck. When the little girl looked up, her uncle was gone. He had given his life in the deadly storm to save her. Kostka faced the power of the wind so that she might be protected. He substituted his life for hers.

That's a glimpse of what is happening in our lesson today. One of the most incredible things to read in the Bible is that, when sinners were coming to John to be baptized, Jesus was baptized too. They all needed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (see Luke 3:3), but Jesus didn't; He was "without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). In this event one begins to see the fact that Jesus is an "all the way" Savior. He is not just a teacher. He is not just an example. He is a Savior who left His heavenly throne to be born into the very world that He created so that He might indeed be its Savior. He entered the waters of John's baptism for sinful people to identify completely with people like us, sinners, whom He came to save.

When you read stories about people jumping into danger, substituting their lives for the lives of others, you get a glimpse of what our Savior Jesus is all about. Yet He didn't just jump into our lives. He lived life perfectly for us, died on the cross in our place, and then rose again to give us His life as a gift. Now that's the kind of love that really does change things!

An "all the way" Savior -- that's what we need. Jesus' willingness to be baptized among sinners like us reminds us that in HIM, that's exactly what we have.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord Jesus, give us hearts that are willing to ponder the depth of Your love for us, love that led You through Your baptism and on to the cross to be a substitute for us sinners. May that sacrificial love overwhelm and empower us to live in You for others. AMEN

### **Spiritual Conversation Workshop**

Have you ever run into a person who asks you a question related to your religious beliefs, or ask you if you believe in God, or why do you go to church? Sometimes, or many times, the answer doesn't immediately come to you! The Board of Stewardship & Evangelism, through Lutheran Hour Ministries, is offering you an opportunity to attend a workshop from **9:00 am to 12:30 pm, Saturday, February 15, 2025 in the fellowship hall.**

The workshop will be broken into two parts. The first video relates to the **Eager Conversationalist** in examining spiritual conversations. It offers insights to help us become more intentional-more eager to engage in spiritual conversations with others. The second video, **The Spiritual Conversation Curve**, offers help in getting past conversation hurdles. This is possible when we focus on someone's "spiritual posture" so as not to impose a conversation that's forced or ill-timed. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the office door. **Please sign up no later than Sunday, February 9, 2025.** This will allow time to prepare all training materials prior to the event. Coffee and treats will be provided. If you have questions, feel free to contact Len Campbell @ 218-391-5829. God Bless!

### **Valentine's Day Dinner**

The youth group will be hosting a Valentines dinner for the congregation to thank them for their support of the youth of the congregation. It will be held on Sunday, February 9 after the service. Please sign up on the office door. They will be serving Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, desserts and drinks. This event is free.

### **Voters' Meeting Sunday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m.**

### **Midweek Lenten Services**

The Lenten Season begins on March with Ash Wednesday service at 12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Here is the Midweek service schedule.

**March 5 - Ash Wednesday (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

**March 12 - (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

**March 19 - (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

**March 26 - (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

**April 2 - (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

**April 9 - (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.)**

### **Soup & Sandwich Suppers**

Please join us once again for food and fellowship as we enjoy soup and sandwich suppers during Lent. They start **March 12 at 5:30 p.m.** Please consider being a host, we have 5 Wednesdays to fill. Typically, the first 3 are taken by various boards. So, we need two more groups to host soup & sandwich supper

### **Christ's Men**

Christ's Men's first Tuesday lunches have returned. They will meet on February 4, 11:30 AM, at Superior Family Restaurant, it is on the first floor, alley side of the Androy Hotel, at 1213 Tower Ave. Hope to see as many as possible there.

### **Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML)**

Note: the LWML will not be meeting in February. Join thousands of other Lutheran women who focus on missions and God's Word. Our Christ Lutheran LWML will **next meet on Tuesday, February 4 at 1:00 PM.** Our emphasis is on Bible Study, mission projects, sharing faith and friendship with our "sisters-in-Christ ". Pastor Schield will lead our Bible Study. If you have received a fall Quarterly, please bring it with you.

### **Christ the King Memorial Scholarship**

The purpose of the Fund is to provide scholarship assistance to LCMS students pursuing higher education at LCMS colleges, universities or seminaries. The Fund earned net income sufficient enough that \$2,000.00 is available for scholarship awards in 2025. Any award granted shall be for tuition purposes only. Any student who is a communicant member in good standing of CLC or another LCMS congregation is eligible to apply for an award. Application forms and related instructions are available from the church office. **Students must return completed applications to the church office no later than April 1, 2025.** Applications will then be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

### **Church Council Minutes**

**January 11, 2024**

**Members Present:** Paul Klomhaus, Mike Miller, Helena Frost, Chris Stumpf, Chris Kirchoff, Don Hauser, Mike Stumpf and Roni Hauser

**Call to order:** Paul Klomhaus

**Opening Prayer:** Paul Klomhaus

**Call for additional agenda items:** Roni added Undesignated Missions, Fellowship Hall request

**Minutes from December 12, 2024 Council**

**Meeting:** Chris Stumpf made the motion to accept the minutes of December 12, 2024 council meeting with spelling changes. It was seconded by Mike Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor out of town.

**Treasurers Report:** Ending Balance: \$102,800.77  
Mike Miller made the motion that we accept the Treasurers Report as Written. Don Hauser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Trustees Report:**

A water pipe burst in the sacristy. We had excellent help with the cleanup, and Paul Klomhaus repaired the pipe quickly. Take aways: The main building shut off for water and electricity needs to be marked. Signs have been placed on the quilter's door and in the room. Trustees need to find and mark ancillary shut off valves for various water lines throughout the building. The insurance company has been contacted about the sanctuary floor. In process.

Purchased and placed a new shelf for janitor supplies in the boiler room. The old shelves were falling off the wall.

Completed maintenance on the choir loft humidifiers.

Men's & Women's restroom floors have been scrubbed. Thank you, Nathan Klomhaus, for assisting.

Removed the old humidifier from the choir loft. Changed ballast in light above the kitchen door in the Fellowship Hall. Changed the light in front of the Treasurer's Office in the Sunday School Hall.

**Board of Deacons:** No report, meeting cancelled.

**Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:** Working on the Guardian Angel breakfast 1/12/25, Family game & movie day 1/19/25 and the Spiritual Conversation Workshop on 2/15/25.

Planning is in the process to host some kind of welcome for our new members.

**Board of Education:**

Goal – to start having regular meetings of the Board of Christian Education. Valentine's Dinner is being planned for February 9, 2025, time TBD. It will be a lasagna dinner served by the youth. Youth bank account – Powerhouse checking account. Handing out Bibles to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up classes, date to be determined. End of Sunday School year May 18, 2025, Helena will be stepping down as superintendent at that time, looking for someone to serve in that position.

**Memorial Committee:** Meeting was held 12/17/24 no minutes provided.

**Endowment Committee:** The board met on 12/8 to discuss ways to bring the endowments back in line with the parameters that were set when they were started. There will be a presentation at the February 16<sup>th</sup> voter's meeting.

Dr. Stanley W Oexemann Endowed Education Fund – Balance \$57,644.75

**Payouts:**

Concordia Publishing: Sunday School Materials - \$106.49

Lutheran Hour Ministries: Wednesday Bible Study Materials - \$20.92

Miriam J Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund – Balance \$73,647.18

**Payouts:**

Pattie Miller: Baby Quilts - \$98.34

Pattie Miller: Baby Quilts - \$287.53

Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Youth Fund – Balance \$70,447.63

Christ the King Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund – Balance \$133,055.93

Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Fund (Organ Fund) – Savings Balance \$1,641.50; CD \$20,000.00

**Memorial Garden:** Resting.

**Old Business:**

**Electronic door locks.** Discussed the 3 bids to make the lock on the side door an electronic lock to eliminate keys. There would be fobs. The council discussed the 3 bids that were gathered, and a motion was made to present the bid by EverOn to the voters. The project would be paid out of the Capital Expense budget up to \$7500. Chris Kirchoff made 1<sup>st</sup> motion with Mike Miller seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Photo Directory:** the end date for getting your photos taken will be sometime at the end of February.

**New Business:**

Church Cleaning: Nathan Klomhaus will be taking over the janitorial duties from Marsden starting February 1.

Church Liaison position: Discussed having a liaison position that would be a kind of recruiter position and would have information from the time & talent forms to help fill needs around the church. Be a contact person for new members. Maybe deal with our media presence.

Large donation received, what to do with it: decided to hold off on decision until more information about floor repairs comes in.

Sanctuary project: Paul handed out an estimate with a description and the cost to repaint etc. the sanctuary.

Undesignated Mission money: This is money that the church receives through the year from members that is marked as 'missions' but is undesignated to where it should go. We discussed what to do with the money from 2024, and a motion was made to move it to the LWML to be distributed to those in need in the congregation. Don moved that we do so, Chris Kirchoff seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Request for Fellowship Hall use: Millie Derick has requested to use the fellowship hall on Thursday, November 27, 2025, to have her family's thanksgiving. Mike Stumpf made the motion to approve the request, Chris Stumpf seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, February 13, 2025, 5pm.

**Next Voters Meeting:** February 16, 2025, 10:15 a.m.

**Adjournment:** 7:15 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer

### **Stewardship**

#### **"Christ's Life, and Love, and Light"**

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height  
May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would "Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height."

Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in

the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.  
This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

### **My Savior Lives Northland LCMS Service of Worship for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6.**

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. [MSL Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations.](#) Please check your local listings as sometime the program is moved to a different channel due to programming conflicts on NBC.

Please send contributions c/o: Mt. Olive Lutheran,  
2012 East Superior St, Duluth, MN 55812. Checks  
should be made to: MSL Northland

### Youth Upcoming Events

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to attend any or  
all events! We study God's Word in a variety of  
ways – music videos with today's current Christian  
artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that  
relate to the youth! Join us! We meet on Sundays  
from 10-11 a.m. and on Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30  
p.m. Join us! Bring a friend!

### Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS  
Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran  
Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex  
Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical  
Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and  
more. Listen to what you want when you want at  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

### Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need  
to bring in your donations of non-perishable food  
items for the local food shelf. You may put your  
items under the table in the narthex. This is given to  
those in need and then to the local food pantry.

## FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 2 Patricia Miller
- 3 Michael Field  
Debbie Winans  
Ruth Keppers
- 9 Angie Mack
- 10 Gary Plesko
- 13 Daniel Nixon
- 14 Marilyn Pingel
- 16 Scott Markee
- 17 Steve Kidd  
Kellsey Allen
- 19 Lana Broderson  
Patty Ayotte
- 22 Cindy Michalski  
Nola Stenroos
- 25 Tom Pingel
- 27 Jennifer Heffner  
Andrew Vengrin
- 28 Nathan Klomhaus

### Online Information

#### LC-MS Website

[lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

#### Minnesota North District Website

[mnn.lcms.org](http://mnn.lcms.org)

#### Lutheran Witness Online

[www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

#### LC-MS Synod Radio Stations

[www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org)—or—[classic99.com](http://classic99.com)

[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

#### Information on Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption

[getrealwithyourself.com](http://getrealwithyourself.com)