



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

The Beacon

March
2025

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

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Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

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

Bible Study & Sunday
School
Sunday - 10 a.m.



"I don't expect to use someone's essays in place of my articles all the time but I found this one to be very interesting and helpful." – Pastor Schield

Welcome to "Word from The Center" MONDAY, a devotional word from the Center of our faith, Jesus Christ, with reflections on His Word. I'm Gregory Seltz. Today's reading is **Luke 6:20-23**, where Jesus says to His disciples,

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.

LOOK WHERE TRUE BLESSINGS ARE TO BE FOUND!

If you are looking for real blessings and enduring love, the key is to look in the right place, to look to the right source! That's why these "Beatitudes," these "words of blessing," instruct, amaze, and, at times, confuse. Jesus belies looking to personal circumstances as the key to God's blessing as He blesses the poor, the hungry, and the persecuted. Blessed? What? That certainly doesn't jive with our materialistic view of blessing. Jesus goes further in Luke 6 when he warns us that earthly, temporal blessings can actually be a detriment to the enduring blessings of God. He goes on to say, "But woe to you who are rich...well-fed now...who laugh now... [and those of whom] everyone speaks well" (Luke 6:24-26). Woe? What's going on here?

Now it's important to note that God is not against prosperity, laughter, or eating and drinking *per se*. But He is against people believing that these things are all we need for life or that these things are reliable evidence of God's blessing. It's true that where our heart is, there indeed our treasure will be (see Luke 12:34). God wants our heart, treasure, and blessing to be rooted and resourced in Him. The key to receiving and sharing a life that's blessed by God is to look to Jesus, who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), as the center and the source for what ultimately matters. Also, the certainty of God's blessing is not determined by one's circumstance; instead, the key to God's blessing is determined by *God's work for you*, the bringing of His gracious, eternal kingdom in Jesus Christ into this world for all. That's why Jesus reminds us later in Luke chapter 12 to "seek [God, the Father's] kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well" (verse 31).

Valentine's Day was a few weeks ago and many people were looking to "celebrate" the blessing of love in their life. But so many are looking for these things in all the wrong places. Many have reduced Valentine's Day to Cupids, cards, and candies when the blessings of love for which so many search are rooted in something so much more than mere temporal things. Many don't even realize that the celebration of Valentine's Day is rooted in the power of faith in Christ, the power of sacrifice to others in His Name, and the power of God's love in action for others. That's all "kingdom of heaven" stuff.

Valentine's Day grew out of the natural human yearning for life to be something more than mere surface appearances, something beyond routine, misfortune and mayhem, and beyond the daily grind. Yet observing this day is actually rooted in God's enduring love for us in Christ Jesus. The ancient legend says Valentine was a priest who defied the Roman emperor's order forbidding Christian couples to get married. Nevertheless, Valentine performed marriage ceremonies in secret out of his compassion for these people. His service to them in Christ eventually got him imprisoned and put to death. While awaiting execution, legend has it that he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine." The reality at the heart of the legend is that St. Valentine was a priest who got into trouble for his efforts to share the love of Christ with others, no matter the cost.

So, if you missed that point on February 14, it is not too late to reclaim the blessings of true love, to receive the ultimate "Valentine's card," and to look where true blessings are found. St. Valentine himself would tell you to seek first and foremost the love of God in Christ, and then to seek to share that with others, not just for a day, but for a lifetime, even an eternity. St. Valentine would challenge you to look for the things of the "kingdom of God" first, and not to be so concerned about the temporary challenges that occur this side of heaven, even when trying to share God's blessings and love. Why? Because being part of Christ's kingdom by grace through faith is the focus and the source of

blessings that last forever. As Jesus himself reminds us, "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because great is your reward in heaven" (Luke 6:23).

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to seek the things of our heavenly Father's kingdom first and foremost in our lives so that we might live blessed lives for others no matter the circumstance. And let our struggles and our successes always be focused on the vision of what is yet to come in heaven by Your blessing and Your grace. AMEN

Written By [Dr. Gregory Seltz](#)

Lenten Season

The Lenten season is approaching fast. It begins March 5 with the Ash Wednesday service at 12:15 & 6:30 p.m. Starting March 12 we offer 2 services on Wednesdays along with a soup and sandwich supper at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Our Midweek series is:

"Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis"

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

Genesis 3:1-13, 21 "The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin"

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

Genesis 3:14-15 "The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil"

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

Genesis 6 "The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning"

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

Genesis 22:1-18 "The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place"

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

Genesis 28:10-22 "The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth"

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

Genesis 50:15-21 "The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil"

Holy Week

April 13 (9:00 a.m.) Palm Sunday

April 17 (6:30) – Maundy Thursday

April 18 (12:15 & 6:30 p.m.) Good Friday

April 20 (9 a.m.) Easter Sunday

Soup & Sandwich Suppers – Hosts Needed

Please join us for food and fellowship as we enjoy soup and sandwich suppers during Lent. They start **March 12 at 5:30 p.m.** Volunteers are needed to host. The first 4 Wednesdays have hosts, **we need hosts for March 26 & April 9**, please leave a note in the church office if you wish to host. Usually, a couple of crockpots of soup, some kind of sandwich, chips, maybe fruit or veggies and a dessert, the menu is up to you. Plan for 12 – 20 people. Supper is served at 5:30 p.m.

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 scholarship awards up to a \$2,000.00 depending on the number of applicants 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.

Daylights Savings Time

A reminder the Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9! We will lose an hour. Move your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night. It is another sign of spring and the changes that are coming our way, we hope.

Game & Movie Day

Join us Sunday March 16 at 11:30 after Bible study for a fun afternoon of board games, card games and another episode of 'The Chosen'. Bring your favorite game, maybe some snacks if you desire.

The Chosen Season 5

Season 5 of 'The Chosen' will be coming to Duluth Cinema in late March. This season covers the Last Supper, there are 3 episodes. Once again, we are

hoping to go as a group to the Sunday afternoon showing. The dates and times would be as follows:

Sunday, March 30 @ 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, April 6 @ 2:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 @ 3:15 p.m.

We are just working out the logistics on this so look at your news & notes for more information in the weeks to come. There will be a sign-up sheet if you are interested in going.

Church Council

February 13, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Schield, Paul Klomhaus, Mike Miller, Helena Frost, Don Hauser, Chris Stumpf, Mike Stumpf, Roni Hauser, Don Hauser and Sharyn Vengrin

Call to order: Paul Klomhaus

Opening Prayer: Pastor Schield

Call for additional agenda items: None

Minutes from January 9, 2025 Council Meeting:

Don Hauser made a motion to accept the minutes of the council meeting. It was seconded by Mike Miller. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Pastor's Report: March 8, 2025, Memorial Service for non-member.

Treasurers Report: Ending Balance: \$97,022 Mike Miller made the motion that we accept the Treasurers Report as Written. Don Hauser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustees Report: Snow Removal is being done.

Board of Deacons: Soup and Sandwich for lent was discussed.

Board of Stewardship & Evangelism: Spirit Conversation/Game Night March 16th-Movie-The Chosen-After Bible Study.

Board of Education: YOUTH GROUP: Bibles will be presented to 4th graders on March 2, 2025, Bagged groceries at Super One in East End Friday, February 7 and 8th. We made \$2,000.00. A special thank you to all our congregation members who came out and supported us! The Youth worked hard and did a great job representing our church. Sunday, February 9th, we held the Lasagna Valentines Dinner. Thank you to Chris Stumpf for her hard work and leadership.

Youth Acct. - possible bank change.

Looking at a bowling event coming up or a possible sporting event.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: I have someone who has expressed interest in the Sunday School Superintendent position. More to come.

Board of Ed. Is meeting this Sunday following service.

Memorial Committee: None

Endowment Committee: Dr. Stanley W. Oexemann Endowed Education Fund; Balance: \$57,644.75 No payouts.

Miriam Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund-Balance \$73,647.18-No Payouts

Christ the King Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund-Balance \$133,055.93-No Payouts

Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Fund (Organ

Fund) – Savings Balance: \$1,641.50; CD \$20,000.00

Memorial Garden: Resting

Old Business: Watch for wet floors. Paul will talk with Nathan regarding the wet floors.

Directory-75% pictures that have been taken.

Memorial Garden size increase update: City was contacted. It would be no problem if we wanted to do it. On hold.

Update on floors damage:

Quote for replacement of floor: \$71,101.00 This is covered by insurance.

Maple Flooring-Stripped right down to concrete.

Sacristy: \$5,000.00.

New Business

Sanctuary walls update: \$25,000 for Drywall replacement: Remove Wallpaper. Paint etc. would be a total of \$38,372.00.

Web Site: Jessica Fowler will be our Social Media Specialist.

Money gift: Will be used for projects.

Pastor's new items: Letter from President of Synod. Pastor has a copy and would be happy to share it if anyone would like to read it.

Door Locks: Capital Outlay budget- \$6,296.88- Not to surpass (\$7,500.00.) These will be fobs.

Pasty Bake: Shane was interested.

Other: Paul will present the floor and walls quotes at Voter's meeting. Roni will make ballots. Vote will be taken.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2024, 5pm.

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer

Voter's Meeting

February 16, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by President Paul Klomhaus. Pastor Schield led the opening prayer.

Call for additional agenda items: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 17, 2024, Voter's meeting. A motion was made by Dave Severin to accept the minutes as written but with a correction of the date for the next voter's meeting to be changed from February 25, 2024, to the correct date of February 16, 2025. Motion

seconded by Wayne Ploetz. All in favor, Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurers' Report: Motion was made by Len Campbell and seconded by Don Hauser to accept the treasurers' report. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Members: Motion was made by Len Campbell to acceptance of new members Darla Williams, profession of faith, and Ken & Karen Thimm, profession of faith, Seconded by Pat Field. All in favor. Motion carried.

Endowment Update: Don Hauser, chair of the Endowment Committee, presented a report regarding our endowments.

The Eleanor A. Oexemann Endowed Fund, better know as the Organ Fund, was originally set up with \$30,000.00. Due to an error in thinking, that fund was \$8400. below the original endowed amount. Some of the money has been replaced from the Memorial Fund. We still need to determine ways to replenish approximately \$3700 of the funds.

The Dr. Stanley W Oexemann Education Fund is in good shape. The 12/31/24 balance was \$57,644.75. The budget plan for 2025 will be \$1400, or approximately 2.5% of the balance.

The Eleanor A Oexemann Endowed Youth Fund. This fund is for the youth of Christ Lutheran. The fund is over the opening balance by approximately \$40,000. The Endowment committee will work with the Board of Education on ideas to help bring this fund more in line with the \$30,000 given to start the fund. The fund will be budgeted with \$5600, approximately 8% of the \$70,447.63 balance.

The Miriam J Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund. This fund has also done very well. The fund is approximately \$25,000 over the original donation of \$50,000. The endowment committee came up with making donations to the following local charities:

Lake Superior Life Care Center	\$3000.00
Damiano Center	\$3000.00
My Savior Lives	\$1000.00
Lutheran Island Camp	\$1000.00
Chum	\$1000.00
Life in Christ Lutheran Church	
Grand Marais, MN	\$5000.00

This is a total of \$14,000. This was presented to the church council during the January council meeting and there were no objections. The committee wanted to maintain transparency; we wanted to present this to the congregation before proceeding with any disbursement.

Motion was made to move forward with the disbursements from the Miriam J Oexemann Endowed Mission Fund as noted, by Len Campbell, seconded by Bob Raaflaub. All in favor. Motion Carried.

New Business

Sanctuary floor repairs: estimates have been turned into insurance and approved. Insurance will cover the replacement minus \$1000. for our deductible. Hopefully the repairs will start soon and hopefully be completed before Holy Week. Once repairs start, we will have our services in the fellowship hall. The flooring company will remove all pews, lay down maple floor, sand and finish. Also included in the repairs will be replacing the floor in the sacristy. CFI Flooring will be doing the work.

Money Gift: Our church was the recipient of a very generous gift of \$50,000. At the end of December. We are very grateful for the donation.

Electronic Door Lock: The church has not been rekeyed in many years, and we have no idea how many keys are out there. They decided to look at having an electronic door lock installed to eliminate having to hand out keys. Electronically locked doors only open with a card or fob. After getting 3 estimates the council decided on EverOn, which will install an electronic lock on the door closest to the parking lot (by multi-purpose room) at a cost of \$6296. There will be a subscription fee of \$50 per month so we may keep track of who has fobs, program the fobs, and to monitor entries. Fobs will be handed out to those that need them, i.e. boards, pastor, secretary, custodian, etc. there will be fobs that we can program for short term use, i.e. persons using the church for a party that will no longer work after a certain date or time. At a future date the rest of the door will be rekeyed. Motion to approve up to \$7500 to install electronic lock on the side door by multi-purpose room was made by Wayne Ploetz, seconded by Bob Raaflaub. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sanctuary Repairs or Narthex floor

replacement: As discussed earlier we received a generous donation of \$50,000. And 2 options were offered as to what to do with the money.

1. Repair cracking in dry wall, removing wallpaper, and painting on the sanctuary. It would be a good opportunity to do so with the replacement of the sanctuary floor. With the pews removed and no worries about damaging the floor. The costs would be \$35,000 - \$42,000. Depending on what options we choose.
2. Replace the floor in the entry, narthex, offices, multi-purpose room, and hallways at a cost of about \$38,000. The fellowship hall would add another \$12,000.

We were to vote on which one we wanted to do. Before the vote it was brought up that we have the money to do it all, the sanctuary work, replace the floors in the entry, narthex, offices, multipurpose room, fellowship hall and hallways. With the moneys from the \$50,000 gift, Stifel account, and the Christ the King saving account (not to be confused with the Christ the King Scholarship Endowment, they are to separate accounts). After questions and discussion, a motion was made. Len Campbell made a motion to repair the Sanctuary and redo all the flooring with the exception of the kitchen. Nathan Klomhaus seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Sanctuary Painting:

A discussion was held to figure out which painting options we wish to have done in the sanctuary. A motion was made that we Approve to remove the wallpaper, fix sheet rock and paint the sanctuary and move forward with replacing the floors in the Narthex, offices, multipurpose room, halls and fellowship hall for no more than \$100,000.00. Motion made by Dave Severin, seconded by Len Campbell. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next meeting: May 2025 date TBD.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer.

Stewardship

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as "the most forgotten words in the Scriptures." They are

forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit.

We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



My Savior Lives Northland

LCMS Service of Worship – Every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on My 9 Channel 6.3

"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 Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on My 9 Channel 6.3 and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings.

Please send contributions c/o:

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

2012 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55812

Checks should be made to: MSL Northland

- 3 Gloria Vreeland
Holly Klomhaus
- 8 Linda Sharp
Carol Corrine Evans
- 9 Duane Betterman
Russell Hagberg
- 11 Jim Kari
- 17 Caryl Lehto
- 20 Cheryl Harkabus
Sally Miller
- 21 Elizabeth Flynn
- 22 Una Privette
Eliana Mack
- 28 Peggy Campbell
Nick Kirchoff
- 30 Belinda Sternberg

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.

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

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

Online Information

LC-MS Website

lcms.org

Minnesota North District Website

mnn.lcms.org

Lutheran Witness Online

www.lcms.org

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LC-MS Synod Radio Stations

www.kfuo.org—or—classic99.com

www.issuesetc.org

Information on Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption

getrealwithyourself.com