

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
208 E. WATTS ST.
ENTERPRISE, AL
36330

“To Know
Christ and make
Him Known!”



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Note	1
Prayer List	3
Evangelism	4
Current Events	5
Memory Cards	7
LCMS Stewardship	8

CTK Family Newsletter

April, 2024

Easter: The Christian Passover

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



*Christ Jesus Lay in Death's
Strong Bands*, LSB #548, was
written by Martin Luther (1483–1546)
sometime in the first quarter of the 16th
century. It was translated into English
by Richard Massie (1800–87) in the
19th century. What can 21st century
Christians learn from it? Much!

The first stanza begins with Good
Friday, what was happening and why:

*1. Christ Jesus lay in death's
strong bands*

For our offenses given;

Yet it doesn't linger there. It assumes
the resurrection, ascension, and reign
of Jesus:

*But now at God's right hand He
stands*

And brings us life from heaven.

The great exchange Jesus took our
death upon himself and gave us new
life in Him. What is our response to
this good news? Thanks and praise!

Therefore let us joyful be

And sing to God right thankfully

Loud songs of alleluia!

Alleluia!

Stanzas two paints a bleak picture
of our sinful condition and explains
why Jesus had to take our place:

*2 No son of man could conquer
death,*

Such ruin sin had wrought us.

*No innocence was found
on earth,*

*And therefore death had
brought us*

Into bondage from of old

*And ever grew more strong and
bold*

And held us as its captive.

Alleluia!

The Alleluia at the end of stanza 2
seems out of place until you look at
the hymn as a larger poem. After de-
scribing the trouble the human race is
in, the alleluia serves as a lead in to
the next two stanzas that point to death
being swallowed up in Christ's victory
over the grave.

*3 Christ Jesus, God's own Son,
came down,*

His people to deliver;

*Destroying sin, He took the
crown*

*From death's pale brow forev-
er:*

*Stripped of pow'r, no more it
reigns;*

An empty form alone remains;

Its sting is lost forever.

Alleluia!

*4 It was a strange and dreadful
strife*

*When life and death contend-
ed;*

*The victory remained with life,
The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That death is swallowed up by
death,
Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia!*

That death would be “swallowed up by death” was first foretold by Isaiah:

Isaiah 25:8 (ESV)

⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

Jesus’ death and resurrection has destroyed the power of death. In grace, He now shares His victory with us! With the eyes of faith that we see Him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:

*5 Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;*

The paschal lamb refers to the sacrifice made by the people of God just before the 10th plague occurred where God punished Egypt by killing their firstborn but passed over the firstborn of Israel (Exodus 12). That Paschal Lamb is capitalized, refers to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world:

He died on the accursed tree—

*So strong His love—to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o’er,
And Satan cannot harm us.*

Alleluia!

Just as the faithful people of God in Egypt offered a lamb without blemish for sacrifice, painting the animal’s blood on their doorposts and lentils, resulting in the Destroyer passing over, so Jesus offered himself for us, taking on the sins of the world as well as their punishment. In receiving Christ in faith, we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. Because of His shed blood, the wrath of God has passed over us! Easter is the Christian Passover. Thanks be to God!

1 Corinthians 5:7–8 (ESV)

⁷ ...Christ, our Passover lamb, has been

Easter: The Christian Passover (Continued)

sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival...with...sincerity and truth.

*6 So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now His grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended.
Alleluia!*

Let us keep the festival. Certainly, we are blessed to gather on Easter Day to praise and thank God (see stanza 7!), but our celebration is not limited to one day a year. Each Sunday we are blessed to receive the gifts of God. In Word and Sacrament, He pours out His grace.

The last stanza of the hymn addresses the Christian Passover directly and calls upon us to celebrate!

*7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other!
Alleluia!*

Thanks be to God! I look forward to praising God with you this Easter Season and beyond!

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

God’s Blessings,
Pastor

Note: *Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands*, LSB #548 Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Text: Public domain

April Communion Schedule: Pastor will be taking off the first Sunday (7th). Communion for April is scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd Sundays.

Ongoing Need—Food Pantry

Can you help keep the food pantry stocked of items?

Bring on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Our biggest needs seem to be protein, shelf stable meals and can openers!

Here is a more specific list:

- Meats—i.e. tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage
- Peanut butter
- Shelf stable meals
- Ramen noodles

- Can opener

Please no glass jars and check the dates on the cans!

Thank you SO much!



Attention 2024 High School Graduates— Scholarship Opportunity

The Dr. R. E. W. Harrison II Memorial Scholarship is available to members in good standing of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod with preference given first to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Enterprise. The Scholarship is also available to qualified applicants from Trinity Lutheran Church, Dothan, and Prince of Peace, Ozark. The scholarship helps defray a portion of college expenses for the 2024-2025 college year. The amount is determined based on the interest earned by the endowment during the year. The applicant must be of good moral character, display good citizenship, must have an interest in studying math, science, and/or theology and have completed an application with essay and letters of recommendation. Prior awardees may re-apply. To receive a copy of the application, email Deborah Tobin at dtobin2016@gmail.com. Submit the completed application by email to Deborah Tobin or mail it to Christ the King Lutheran Church, 208 E. Watts Street, Enterprise, AL 36330.



The application deadline is April 30, 2024.
The scholarship will be awarded by May 19, 2024.

Prayer List:

Those at care facilities or at home:

Those who mourn: Collier/Dart and Payne families;

Military: For all service people stationed overseas and those at home – Chaplain Ed & Shawn Wright;

Illness & Recovery: Gina Beeson, Daisy Ray Dever, Rosanne DeMarti, Mrs.

Farris, Sue Gill, Jennifer Hall, Susan High, Helga Klang, Melody Maki, Jonathan McNeil, Ruth Morehead, Yvonne Pye, Caleb Roche, William Rymer, Henry Sorquist, Scott Sorquist, Oliver Strobel Sr., Mikey Torres, Steven Walrath, and Jack Weisbrodt; **General:** Alex Cline, Walt

Hartley, Kathy Jett, and Helen King family/friends; **The Persecuted Church and Those Affected by Disaster:**

*We have a prayer group on Facebook: Christ the King Prayer Chain.

Let Peggy VanHoven know if you want to join!



Keep these folks in our hearts and minds. Lifting them up in prayer to our heavenly Father who can do all that we ask and more!

Let the Spring in Your Life Flourish

by Yvonne Pye

All of this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. . . .
(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

The season of spring elicits thoughts of new life, new beginnings, beauty, renewal, transformations, and the reawakening of plant and animal life. At this time of the year, we are encompassed by breathtaking sounds and sights. We hear the sounds of chirping birds, rustling wind, tinkling streams and rain, buzzing bees, and croaking frogs. When we stop and listen, a beautiful chorus resonates, as we experience the wonders of nature. Spring brings vibrant sights such as scrambling squirrels, colorful birds, yellow bees, deep green leaves and grass, gorgeous multicolored butterflies, the brilliant sun, splashing rain and puddles, and bright varicolored flowers. Wild flowers grow without the assistance of humans. Luke 12:27 describes the majesty of the appearance of these flowers: *Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.* A spring quote, by Jim Carrey, demonstrates the natural growth of flowers: "Flowers don't worry about how they're going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful" (O'Sullivan and Berrientas, 2024, p. 17). Wild flowers grow without effort because they are sent by God. All new beginnings and reawakening of life spring forth from God, our Creator.

The spring of our lives began when we became new creatures in Christ through His Word and Baptism. 2 Corinthians 5:17 affirms this truth: *Therefore, if anyone is in*

Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Another quote, by Mimi Novic, illustrates the effects of change: "Sometimes we can only find our true direction when we let the wind of change carry us" (O'Sullivan and Berrientas, 2024, p. 15). When Christ makes us new creations, He allows us the opportunity to serve Him. He gives us a new direction, to follow His leading. John 8:12 describes how Jesus lights our pathway as we follow Him: . . . *I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* The change in our lives, as believers, yields a willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our paths. The Holy Spirit will carry us, like the wind, to new occasions to minister of Christ's love and communicate the gospel message.

All of this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. . . .
(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Our key verse reveals to us, as faithful followers of Christ, that we are blessed with the task of the ministry of reconciliation. Thus, we become ambassadors for Christ. What does this mean? Through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection, He provided the way for all people to be restored to a right relationship with God. So, when we are assigned the ministry of reconciliation, our aim becomes appealing to others regarding the gift of God's grace made possible because of Jesus' sacrifice. Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines ambassador as "an authorized representative or messenger"

(Merriam-Webster, n.d.). What a privilege it is to be ambassadors for Christ!

The Holy Spirit leads all believers to be ambassadors for Christ, but in different ways. God made us all with unique gifts. He works through all of us in distinctive ways. My husband, Richard, is a very quiet man.



April Birthdays!

*even to your old age I am he,
and to gray hairs I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save. Is. 46:4*

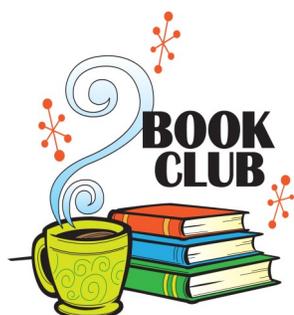
Happy Birthday— Happy Anniversary!

Birthdays :

- 4.08 Samantha Johnson
- 4.11 Michael Johnson
- 4.18 Dana Mayhair
- 4.19 Jeanie Kisner
- 4.19 Max Maxwell
- 4.24 Ethel Pinêiro

Anniversaries:

- 4.03 Jay and Kelly Ryun
- 4.11 Kendall and Sharon Peters
- 4.13 Dale and Carol Weiler
- 4.22 James and Cherie Endrihs
- 4.24 Bud and Marcia Theis



BOOK CLUB

Book Club

April—Me Before You by JoJo Moyes

MEETING AT 2PM ON SUN. 21ST
AT VANHOVELN'S -100 CLUB WAY

Join us!

*Newsletter
deadline is
the 22nd
of the
previous
month.*



Flavors of Italy!

Mother/daughter banquet
Sunday, May 5
1 PM



**Next Drive is
Thursday
May 23
11-4**

Save the Date!

Evangelism (Continued) —

Let the Spring in Your Life Flourish

by Yvonne Pye

He doesn't choose to pray aloud, even at our family devotions. Yet, God uses him in marvelous ways! He is the director of our church benevolence program. In his travels to pay power, water, and rent bills for the needy, he converses with the clerks with a huge smile on his face. At one of our local restaurants, he is known as Smiley. Often, Richard comes home from one of his benevolence missions with a prayer request from a clerk that he has comforted with his cheerful disposition and the promise to pray for them. Others see the light of Christ in Richard by his love. Supporting missions with our work and offerings is another way of being ambassadors for Christ. God directs some of us to be more vocal in our ministry. A friend, who was a leader at a youth gathering, was walking in a park with her youth representatives. She asked a stranger if the group could pray for him, and the stranger requested specific prayer. The youth group surrounded the stranger, and they prayed together. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit leads us to read scripture and share the message of reconciliation directly with family, friends, or strangers. Our new life in Christ enables us to minister to the lost as well as other believers. God works and leads us to use the special gifts with which God created each of us to be His ambassadors. The spring in our lives is

equated to our transformation into a new creature in Christ. This spring flourishes as we grow in Christ and use our spiritual gifts for ministry.

Prayer: Jesus, thank

You for your sacrifice on the cross for all people. We are grateful that, as believers, you have restored us to a right relationship with You. Please, enable us to be examples of the love that Christ has implanted in our hearts. Refine our spiritual gifts, so that we might be effective ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation. Thank You for the blessings of ministry with which you delight us each day. Help us to be excited about new opportunities to serve You by giving of ourselves to others. Guide us, as your followers, to be open to the Holy Spirit's direction. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation (The Lutheran Study Bible), Copyright 2009 by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

O'Sullivan, A. and Berrientas, S. (2024, March 6). *50 Happy Spring Quotes that Inspire Feelings of Excitement*. Good Housekeeping. <https://goodhousekeeping.com>

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.) ambassador. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved March 18, 2024, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

**GOD WAS
IN CHRIST,
RECONCILING THE
WORLD UNTO
HIMSELF+**

2 Corinthians 5:19

Benevolence Report:



This includes help to Clients for:

Lodging, Travel, Gas, Power & Water Bill Assistance,

Month of:

February 16 - March 18, 2024 -

3 families helped - Total spent \$110.00

(This does not include help in the Food Pantry. That is extra.)



Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

PSALM 34:11 (NIV)

Dear parent, teacher, grandparent, beloved in the Lord...

Whatever your station or vocation in life may be, you have requested this resource because God has blessed you with the role of teaching a child (or children) in the faith. In addition to reading to them the Scriptures, which are able to make them wise for salvation (2 TIM. 3:15) and bringing them into contact with God's free-flowing gifts in His holy house, you have also begun to introduce them to *Luther's Small Catechism*.

The catechism is a teaching companion and learning tool for children and adults alike. Luther's intent was for his catechism to be read, memorized and referenced on repeat, as he himself said: "I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad so to remain."

These catechism memory cards have been compiled to help make what may seem like an insurmountable task in our hurried, fast-paced 21st century context feel more achievable: coming to learn and love the main tenets of the faith. The point, of course, is not to achieve simple rote memorization for the sake of personal achievement. The goal is loftier. With eyes fixed to eternity, we memorize Scripture, the catechism and the truths of what we believe so that by internalizing and impressing such things upon our lips and hearts, our lives may be conformed to the words we discipline our minds to learn. We also commit these things to memory so that we are armed with words that bring truth and life when we are faced with temptation, doubt, even death itself. Finally, we memorize these things with our neighbors always on our mind — so that we are ready to confidently witness the Gospel, defend the faith, and serve our neighbor in deed and in truth (1 JOHN 3:18).

The accompanying catechism memory cards largely follow the pattern and layout of *Luther's Small Catechism*. Most of the answers are taken verbatim from Scripture and from the catechism.

You will find additional "discussion cards" included as well. These are not straight memory work cards, but are meant to launch discussions based on the catechism and Scripture that have been memorized.

It is the hope and prayer of LCMS Family Ministry in producing this resource that Christian families across the globe would be reinvigorated to see the home (and the local church) as the primary contexts through which the faith is passed down from one faithful generation to the next. Take heart, be strong and have courage! You can do this — piece by piece, little by little — "for it is not necessary to teach everything at once, but one thing after the other." So says Luther himself.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Children are in their prime memorization years in early childhood, especially from ages two to seven. That means that learning, including spiritual learning, begins at a very early age.

Already at Baptism, the Holy Spirit works to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify the individual believer along with the body of believers — His church. Learning the fear of the Lord begins at the font, and then never ends! From infancy, through early childhood and adolescence, and then into adulthood, the Christian is called to grow in knowledge of God and in good works toward neighbor (COL. 1:10).

It is never too early to introduce your little ones to the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers, the hymns ... these can be used from infancy on. Speak them, sing them, pray them. In the car, while changing a diaper, rocking to sleep, brushing teeth, before or after meals. *It is never too early.*

You can begin to use these cards with very young children (ages 2–5). Once they know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers, and a few hymns by heart, introduce the Ten Commandments, the Six Chief Parts of the catechism, the books of the Bible, and the days of creation. Work together to think of a fun rhyme, create a catchy song or make your own flashcards. Some songs for learning the books of the Bible can even be found online! Take these with you in the car, quiz each other at mealtime or before bed, incorporate them into family devotional time.

Older children (ages 6–12) can move on from the basics and work on the whole card set, taking a section at a time, and then supplement with full pages from the catechism. Again, these can be used in the car on the way to school, at mealtimes or during family devotions. The goal is to have this whole card set memorized by the time a child is ready for confirmation class.

These cards are intended to be printed off for household use. We recommend laminating them, hole punching in the left-hand corner, and putting a key ring through the entire deck so that they all stay together. Allow these cards to be a *launching point* for family conversation. Together, think of questions to ask your pastor. Pray together, grow together, and have fun doing it!

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
—Psalm 19:14*

Go TO: resources.lcms.org/general/catechism-memory-cards

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Christ the King
Lutheran Church

To Know Christ and Make Him Know!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a pre-school classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or

title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

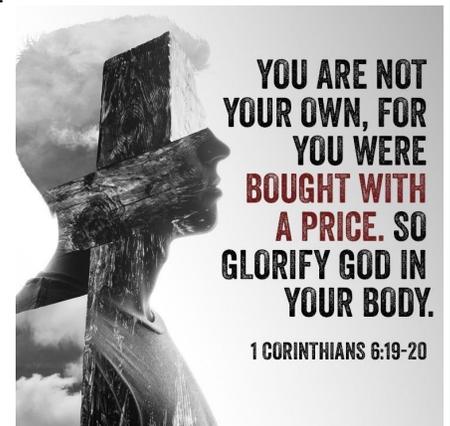
If you yourself are owned by God,



then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



**YOU ARE NOT
YOUR OWN, FOR
YOU WERE
BOUGHT WITH
A PRICE. SO
GLORIFY GOD IN
YOUR BODY.**

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20