



LIVING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.livingchristplainfield.com

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Living Christ Connection

April 2024

Don't Let Your Faith Be Eclipsed

In just a few days we will be experiencing a total eclipse of the sun. Being so close to Easter this year has brought back the question of could there have been an eclipse in Jerusalem on Good Friday when Jesus was crucified. Could that explain the darkness that fell over the land? Here is a scientific answer:



"Astronomically, Passover occurs when there is a full moon, meaning when the moon is on the opposite side of the Earth from the sun and thus is fully illuminated by the sun's rays. A partial or total solar eclipse, meanwhile, occurs only with a new moon, defined as the phase when the moon is passing between the Earth and the sun, which is why it blocks the sun's rays.

"While most attempts to work out dates of historical events based on astronomical events can be problematical, this one is easy!" Brother Guy Consolmagno, a research astronomer who is also director of the Vatican Observatory, said, "The Crucifixion took place on Passover, which is the first full moon of spring. You need a new moon, not a full moon, for a solar eclipse. Exactly the wrong phase of the moon."

Read more at: <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article165900752.html#storylink=cpy>

So, the simple answer is, "No eclipse." Besides that, darkness only lasts for a few minutes, not three hours. So why do people want to speculate that there was an eclipse? There are two fairly simple answers to that as well.

First, some Christians don't really believe in miracles and think that there are logical explanations and events that got passed off as miracles on people who didn't know any different.

The second reason is that there are people who want to discredit the Bible and would seek to have people put their trust in science or to at least get them stop believing in what they consider myths and legends.



Why go through all the trouble to deny the darkness at Jesus' crucifixion? The reason is the same as trying to say He didn't rise from the dead. Now, the Apostle Paul said this, (1 Corinthians 15:14), "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."

So why does this matter to an unbeliever? Humanists want to believe they are in control and having to believe the only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ is unacceptable. If Christianity cannot be discredited then foundation of it would be true and therefore heaven and hell would be real, also. To them, much like Adam and Eve, the "fruit" they are eating is pleasant to them and they don't want to stop. Confessing the need for a Savior and changing one's life to walk in the ways of the Lord is not something they want to do.



So, either miracles can't happen, and Christianity is as make-believe as every other religion, or miracles can happen, and Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. The disciples knew what they saw, as did hundreds of others before Jesus' ascension into heaven, and they testified to it for the rest of their lives, even when tortured for their faith. Trust the witnesses, not the skeptics. Christ died to save and rose victorious. Hallelujah!

Pastor Latzke

Have you checked out RightNowMedia?

LCLC has developed a “current library” with RightNowMedia filled with resources for kids, men, women, small groups, for studies on Christian living, for Bible Study, for Biblical financial studies, and the list goes on and it’s FREE.



You can access the world’s largest library of Bible study video resources with the RightNow Media app. Stream content for small groups, find shows for kids, and download helpful guides for leaders. All of it available anytime, anywhere. It’s available for free to anyone with a RightNow Media subscription through their organization (LCLC).

This outreach tool offers access to more than 25,000 biblically based available on any streaming device (phones, laptops, tablets, TV) at home, on the go, to watch by yourself or to gather with your friends and neighbors to see and discuss.

The resources cover a variety of topics – current, educational, educational, enjoyment – and follow the use of sessions that outlines the topic in a synopsis form. They then provide longer sessions filled with information Biblically based but brings information to your fingertips. There are videos for small groups, families, students, leadership development, Bible studies, kids ministry (ages 1+), marriage, finances, parenting, and much more

If you deleted the email with the link, not knowing what it was, let us know and we will send it again.

Here’s a sample of some of the offerings:

Together - SADIE ROBERTSON HUFF & CHRISTIAN HUFF

Point All Your Relationships Toward Christ

We are wired for relationships. But relationships are anything but easy to maintain—even close friendships can fall apart. In a world where people quickly write each other off, where isolation has become the norm, and marriages dissolve overnight, what is God’s hope for our relationships?

In this six-session series, Sadie and Christian Huff will dig into God’s Word to show us how to live holy and healthy lives together—with God, with our close circle, and in our community.

Eliminating Debt - CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES

Face the Fear. Attack the Debt. Be Free.

If you think about it, the cover of this package could illustrate both scenarios – a life vulnerable to a mounting flood of debt, or a life rising above it toward a stronger financial position. Which best describes your current situation?

There’s no denying that debt takes a toll on us financially, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. That’s why this study is so crucial! In less than two hours, the Eliminating Debt video study will help you create a plan to attack your debt and be free from the dangers of debt dependence.

Main topics covered: Five reasons why people dive too deep into debt

Steady, practical ways to eliminating debt

How to address special issues like credit scores, dealing with creditors, and bankruptcy

Return to Disciple-Making - JEFF VANDERSTELT

7 Shifts to Align Your Church with Jesus’s Mission

How can church leaders focus on what really matters? So much of our attention as leaders can be wrapped up in activities that don’t contribute to the essential task Jesus gave us as a church—making disciples who make disciples. Every ministry in our churches should work toward the goal of forming people who love Jesus, spend time with him, and live like him. In this seven-session series, pastor and author Jeff Vanderstelt shares seven key shifts we need to make to cultivate disciples in our churches who love God and others.

Bad Girls of the Bible - LIZ CURTIS HIGGS

Join two dozen women in a cozy coffeehouse setting, as author and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs explores the lives of ten of the Bible’s best-known femmes fatales. From Eve to Jezebel to Delilah, each woman’s story and struggles come to life, as Liz brings home this vital truth: “No one is good—except God alone” (Luke 18:19).

Divided into ten lessons—each lasting ten to twelve minutes—the Bad Girls of the Bible study offers a fresh way to engage with the truths found in the best-selling book, whether used for personal enjoyment or in a group setting. Find out why women everywhere say, “You have to hear Liz teach!”

Joseph – Movie for Kids

The thrilling Biblical story of Joseph is told in this high quality 3-D animated feature film for children ages 5 and up. Young Joseph is a dreamer, indulged by his father and resented by his older brothers who soon sell him into slavery without their father’s knowledge. Now captive in Egypt, Joseph experiences humiliation, hardship and imprisonment.

But his faith and his gift for interpreting dreams soon lead him to an exalted position in the kingdom. When his brothers come calling for help, Joseph responds in a surprising way. The program sets Joseph’s story in the context of God’s plan for Israel and the promised coming of the Messiah. It powerfully demonstrates God’s sovereign hand in all things.

(Continued on page 3)

It Starts At Home - GARY THOMAS, AND OTHER OTHERS—

Learn to Confidently Teach Your Kids About God - Who is shaping what your kids believe?

In these busy, hectic days we take our kids to sports practices, games, music lessons, school tutoring, and other activities to give our children the best opportunities for success. But what if we're missing the chance to teach them what matters most?

Our children can grow up smart, athletic, popular, and polite but lack a vibrant relationship with Christ. The few hours they spend in church each week can be helpful, but it cannot nurture a faith in our kids that will withstand the trials that are on the horizon. Church alone cannot teach them, we must start at home. But many parents feel ill-equipped to develop the faith of their children.

In these six sessions, we will explore biblical and tangible ways that parents—couples, single parents, blended families, and grandparents—can build a legacy of faith for their children.

Each Bible study session includes interviews with everyday parents talking about their own doubts, fears, and desires. Gary Thomas, Matt Chandler, and Kurt and Olivia Bruner provide powerful teaching that will help you give your kids what they need to build a solid framework for lifelong faith.



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Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever 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 preschool 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

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The LCMS Foundation was created in 1958 by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to provide Christian estate planning services to LCMS members, and to help ministries invest or endow the gifts members leave them in their wills or estate plans. **Gift Planning creates solutions** for donors. A good plan can help to navigate challenging family dynamics. Family needs change and that is true of inheritance. As family members may be called home to Jesus or new family members arrive, your plan needs to adjust to those changes. You consider these changes in relation to the desire the Lord has laid on your heart to also support ministry that can change as well. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help you consider this balance. Contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or email him at Mark.Muehl@lfnd.org



Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Faith & Film 9 AM "The Chosen" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion	8 	9 Indy West Circuit – LCLC – 9 AM	10	11 BD-Brayton Feuquay	12	13 Spring LWML Rally – Christ the King, Mooreville 
14 Faith & Film 9 AM "The Chosen" Worship 10:30 AM	15	16 Church Council 6 PM BD Beatrice Salinas- Sievers	17	18	19	20 LIFT Mtg 9:30 am
21 Faith & Film 9 AM "The Chosen" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion	22	23 Annv – Harold & Betsy Akers 1966	24	25 Senior Fun Fellowship – 1 PM	26	27
28 Faith & Film 9 AM "The Chosen" Worship 10:30 AM	29	30 BD-Karla Fuehrer				

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

The psalmist beautifully illustrates the guidance found in God's Word. The commentary explores the metaphorical imagery of a lamp and a light, emphasizing the clarity and direction that the Scriptures provide.

This verse is a reminder of the timeless relevance of God's Word in illuminating the path of believers, especially in the month of April as individuals seek guidance and wisdom for the days ahead.

Senior Fun Fellowship - Plans are being made to have a Senior Fun Fellowship on Thursday, April 25 at 1 PM to gather for Dominoes (or other games) at the church. Thoughts for this first gathering are to play dominoes and talk about other fellowship activities to consider. Drinks will be provided. Bring a snack if you'd like. If you have any questions, contact Doris Motter or Evelyn Benning.

Our Financials for February 2024

Feb 2024	LCLC		Year to Date Total Assets LCLC	
Income			Income/Assets	
Envelope	\$ 23,912		Envelope	\$ 36,294
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500		LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 15,000
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 8,279		Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 33,480
Total Income	\$ 39,691		LCEF Account	\$ 49,056
			LCLC Saving Acct	\$ 34,777
			LCLC Checking Balance 12/31/23	\$ 29,422
Expenses	\$ 29,382		Total Cash Assets	\$ 158,313
Difference	\$ 10,309			
			Total Expenses	\$ 73,505
			Difference	\$ 124,525

Feb 2024 LCLC Endowment Account		
Balance	\$ 1,504	

Feb 2024	LCK		Year to Date Total Assets LCK	
Daycare Income	\$ 57,552		Income/Assets	
Other Income	\$ 0		Income	\$ 127,035
Total Income	\$ 57,552		Saving Account	\$ 26,384
			LCK Checking Balance 12/31/23	\$ 15,772
			Total Cash Assets	\$ 169,191
Expenses	\$ 68,437		Total Daycare Expenses	\$ 117,395
Difference	\$ (10,885)		Difference	\$ 51,796

In the month of January, we transferred \$25,000 from our church accounts to our LCEF Steward Account which will result in a higher interest rate. The Endowment Account also has increased with a \$500 memorial gift from the Howard Venners family. The Council has approved the transfer of memorial funds (that have not been a designated gift) into the Endowment Account.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support of the ministry and work of Living Christ. God's blessings continue to be seen.