

Living Christ Connection

November 2025

Thanks to the Exterminator

A month ago, I had a problem with unwanted pests, moles, spiders, and bats. While there are bills I might not be thrilled to pay, I was thankful to have people to pay who could take care of these pests I couldn't take care of myself. Sometimes you need a professional. It was with heartfelt thanks that I paid my bill.



It is with even more heartfelt thanks that we should give to the Lord, perhaps with a twist. You see, Jesus paid the bill and performed the service that we could neither pay nor perform ourselves. Jesus defeated not just a pest but the greatest enemy, the devil.



When I called a man to take care of my mole problem, he told me I had a bat problem in my house, fortunately only in the eaves over the garage. He could smell them, a smell I didn't know.

We wouldn't know we have a problem with sin if the word of God were not shared with us. We wouldn't know this could keep us from going to heaven without being told. We also wouldn't know that we couldn't take care of this problem by ourselves unless it was explained to us. I learned you can't kill bats because they are endangered and so an expert pest removal person is needed. Without the word of God to tell me I couldn't defeat the devil and the sin within me I would have been lost, but that same word told me that Jesus can rid me of that problem so that my life can be saved.

God excels in saving grace that removes our sin infestation and restores us at no cost to us. However, while Jesus paid that price for us, a debt that we cannot repay, we should certainly give thanks with a grateful heart. Words are appropriate to offer but so are our actions and gifts in return. I gladly paid hundreds of dollars to get rid of pests which were no threat to my life so how much more might be given to the one who rid our souls of sin and the threat of eternal death?

Our government may mark November with a day of Thanksgiving to whomever you want to give thanks but let us give thanks from the heart everyday for what the Lord has done for us. As God's love overflows to us, may we give with hearts overflowing.

Pastor Latzke

Commitment Sunday – “Giving from the Heart” November 16th

Each year we renew our pledges of service and giving as we rethink the blessings God has given us during the past year and prayerfully consider our giving and serving during the coming year.

“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7).

As we grow in the grace of giving, we will develop an even closer relationship with our Lord. Our faith will deepen, both as individuals and as a congregation. For some of us, the lack of faithful giving continues to be an obstacle to our spiritual growth. Growing in our giving deepens our trust in God.

Scripture is clear that we are called to be faithful stewards and to share generously with others. We give, not because God needs our money, but because we have a need to give. Through our giving, God blesses us. Giving is our response to God's love and grace. We give willingly and cheerfully out of gratitude and thanksgiving to God.



This year our stewardship emphasis is ***Excel in the Grace of Giving! – Giving from the Heart***. Through the Holy Spirit, God continually reaches out to us and daily gives us His love, grace, and mercy. Faithful stewardship is our faithful response of gratitude for God's generosity to us. It is a mind-set, a way of life.

As we prepare for Commitment Sunday, **make your commitment in prayer with God.**

Read Acts 4: 2-4 Ask if you

- a. Offer nothing
- b. Give an offering like Cain without faith or commitment.
- c. Give an offering like Abel with faith and love, acknowledging God as the Lord of your life.

Now read Luke 19: 1-10. What was the change in Zacchaeus?

Join us in fellowship at the **congregational pitchin** as we celebrate our commitments for the coming year. Join us in fellowship and the blessings of sharing. **Bring your favorite food to share.** Drink & dinnerware will be provided.

*May God bless us as we honor the Lord through our generosity
with our time, talent, and treasure.*

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Indy East/Indy West Fall Gathering – Saturday, November 8

The ladies from the East Zone and the West Zone of LWML will join for their Fall Gathering on Saturday, November 8, at Zion Lutheran, 6513 W 300 S, New Palestine, IN 46163. The ladies at Zion will be hostesses and will serve a light breakfast at 8:45 a.m. for these ladies from the eleven East Zone and the thirteen West Zone congregations.

Christena Estby will speak about her experiences with foster care, adoption, and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The morning program commences at 9:30. We hope to bless Emmaus Lutheran’s food pantry with non-perishable items and Christena’s mission, Working for Wheels, with a freewill offering. Invite a friend.

If you are needing a ride, let Evelyn know. If you have donations,for Emmaus Food Pantry, you can place them on the table in the sanctuary.

L.I.F.T. Meeting – November 15 – 10:00 am

Our L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Fellowship Together) continues to focus on fellowship and service to Living Christ and ministry opportunities. At their meeting in October, they continued to make plans for their 2025-2026 activities.



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Cornucopia Table



In November, we gather unperishable items to share with food pantries to help those in need of food, etc. In the past we have shared with the Food & Clothing Bank at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne,
A trip to the seminary is planned just before Thanksgiving to deliver the food and clothing items for the seminary students. Donations should be non-perishable food items, (with non-expiration dates) and paper products (toilet paper, baggies, etc.)

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CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – Saturday, November 29, 9:00 am

As we prepare our hearts during the season of Advent, we also traditionally decorate the church with wreaths, Christmas trees, colored lights, and manger scenes -- all this to help us look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus and also share the real focus of the season JESUS.



Volunteers wishing to help with the Christmas Decorations and the Christmas Tree inside the church or with setting the Nativity display outside are welcome. Help is needed on Saturday, November 29th beginning at 9:00 am

LCK Nativity Pancake Breakfast – December 9 – 6:30 am

Also, a LCK Nativity Pancake Breakfast is being planned during Nativity Week on Tuesday, December 9 from 6:30 – 8:00 am. LCK students, parents, grandparents, and LCLC are welcome. If you’d like to volunteer, please let Evelyn or Pastor know. David Motter will flip the pancakes. Help with serving and cleanup will be great.

Chronological Reading Plan for Scriptures for the Month of November.

Be in the Word

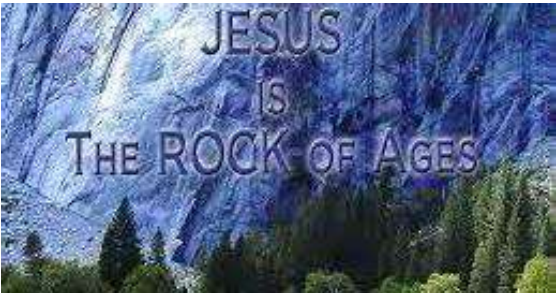
		11/2	2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9/12	-11/9	Hosea 1-7
		11/3	Micah	11/10	Hosea 8-14
		11/4	2 Chronicles 28, 2 Kings 16-17	11/11	Isaiah 28-30
		11/5	Isaiah 13-17	11/12	Isaiah 31-34
		11/6	Isaiah 18-22	11/13	Isaiah 35-36
10/31	Amos 1-5	11/7	Isaiah 23-27	11/14	Isaiah 37-39, Psalm 76
11/1	Amos 6-9	11/8	2 Kings 18, 2 Chronicles 29-31, Psalm 48	11/15	Isaiah 40-43

11/16	Isaiah 44-48	11/23	2 Chronicles 32-33
11/17	2 Kings 19; Psalms 46, 80, 135	11/24	Nahum
11/18	Isaiah 49-53	11/25	2 Kings 22-23, 2 Chronicles 34-35
11/19	Isaiah 54-58	11/26	Zephaniah
11/20	Isaiah 59-63	11/27	Jeremiah 1-3
11/21	Isaiah 64-66	11/28	Jeremiah 4-6
11/22	2 Kings 20-21	11/29	Jeremiah 7-9
		11/30	Jeremiah 10-13

Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)*

While the classic hymn “Rock of Ages” shows up in the Lutheran Service Book in the “Hope and Comfort” section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.



No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ’s work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God’s workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones.

- When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and
- We share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we en flesh the treasure of God’s love and redemption.
- When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord’s House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel’s precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.



We cannot do this. **Jesus does it through us.** We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

The Outreach Committee – Join the Team!

Whether it's the Outreach Committee or the Evangelism Committee or some other name, we all are commissioned by Jesus to “Go and make disciples (followers of Jesus) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” These were the last words spoken by Jesus to his disciples in Matthew. The disciples were officially given the assignment or mission to tell people about Jesus.



As our Outreach Committee discusses and plans ways to move forward in this mission, our focus is to plan ways and means to share the goodness of Jesus available to everyone. We look

- to develop relationships, to encourage and show appreciation for those who are setting examples of service, and
- to find ways to share the words of Jesus love and mercy, and
- to find ways to bring others together to see and hear what Jesus has done for us, and
- to encourage others to be more active in outreach activities.

PUMPKIN NIGHT - Pumpkin Night on October 27 was filled with Trunk ‘n’ Treats, Hayrides, Chili Bar, fellowship and activities. More than seventy children were registered by their nearly 200 parent(s) and received many treats, enjoyed the trunks and the activities of the evening.. Nearly 20 trunks helped make that night successful and fun for all.



“PASS THE PENS – A Year Later” A year ago we invited you to join us in ways to tell “Jesus loves You” and “Jesus cares for You.” One of the ways was “Pass the Pen”. **Take 2 and give 1.** (Using the pen for your own use can be a reminder also of how God “shares His Grace, Mercy, and Peace” with us but then as you pass the pen (or just forget to take it with you at a restaurant, or ?), or use it to just remind a friend of God’s care, it can be a instrument of witness to others of the goodness of God. The other connection on the pen is LCLC’s website address where they can find who we are and the Good News found there.) November 2024 LCLC Newsletter

These pens were shared in many ways. More importantly, let someone know we have a message of Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Give them with a prayer that God would use them as means to sharing God’s goodness. The “blue box” has been refilled and ready for you.

Concordia Publishing House Opportunity

A unique opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for children, adults, and teens comes from Concordia Publishing House and save 20%. A brochure is on the table at church. Special pricing is available exclusively for Living Christ as a CPH Resource Program Affiliate.



The completed order form and payment should be brought to church and given to Evelyn or Pastor. Checks are to be made out to Living Christ Lutheran Church. (A list of 45 items are available with this special offer.)

Family Advent Devotions and Calendar,
Nativity Set and Christmas Arch Books
Classic Cherished Arch Books,
Christmas Activity Books
Lutheran Study Bibles
Illuminated Christmas Christian Coloring Book and more.

Orders are to made to LCLC by November 26th for shipment before Christmas.



Martin Luther, Reformer and Servant of God

Also known for **The Luther Seal or The Luther Rose**, a most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther designed this to summarize the Gospel and illustrate his theology. By the early 1520s, the seal began to appear on the title page of Luther's works. Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

*First, there is a **black cross** in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).*

*The heart should stand in the middle of a **white rose**. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).*

*This rose should stand in a **sky-blue field**, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.*

*Around the field of blue is a **golden ring** to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.*

The Small Catechism written by Martin Luther was published in 1529 for the training of children. It is included in the *Book of Concord* and serves as an authoritative statement of what Lutherans believe.

Martin Luther took it upon himself to solve the problem of regular household Christians not being able to truly understand the key points of Christianity. In the Small Catechism he wanted to create a simple and understandable book for the regular person to grow in their knowledge in the religion. It was made to help shape every Christian's life and develop their faith. It is helpful to review these gems of simplicity for telling the Christian guidelines of living a Christian life.

To **refresh your minds of these Six Chief Parts**, consider setting aside a time each day (Monday through Saturday) to read

the Ten Commandments and their meanings on Monday,
the Apostles Creed on Tuesday and meanings,
the Lord's Prayer and its meaning on Wednesday,
the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and meaning on Thursday,
the Office of the Keys and Confession and meaning on Friday, and
the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) and meaning on Saturday.

(Repeat this schedule each week throughout the month of November.

Read the Morning and Evening Prayer each day.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

Take your Catechism off the shelf and review these Chief Parts as shared above. If you need a copy of those precious gems, copies are available on the table in the lobby. Reading them for the next few weeks will be a refresher for your memory.

Martin Luther also encouraged the Daily Prayers to begin and end the day.'

How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening

Morning Prayer

In the morning, when you get up, bless yourself with the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Then, kneeling or standing, say the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you can also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to your work joyfully, singing a hymn, such as the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion suggests.*

Evening Prayer

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you can also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26 -	Oct 27	28	29	30	31	1
			Jr. Confirmation 4:00 Adult Study 5:30			
2 Bible Class 9 AM "Genesis" Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion BD Betsy Akers	3 BD John Bailey	4 Nativity Planning 10:00 AM	5 Jr. Confirmation 4:00 Adult Study 5:30	6 Annv-Dave & Doris Motter (1993)	7	8 Indy East/West LWML Zones Gathering – Living Christ 8:45 A
9 Bible Class 9 AM "Genesis" Worship 10:30 AM BD Jennifer Keefer	10 Elders Mtg Church Council 6 PM	11	12 Jr. Confirmation 4:00 Adult Study 5:30	13	14	15 LIFT –10:00 AM 
16 Bible Class 9 AM "Gen esis" COMMITMENT SUN. Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion Cong Pitchin BD Judy Ursuy	17 BD Andrew Scott BD Dorothy Venners	18 Outreach Planning 10:00 AM	19 Jr. Confirmation 4:00 Adult Study 5:30	20 BD Evelyn Benning	21 LCK Thanksgiving Feast 11-12 noon	22 BD Elaina Rudat
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Bible Class 9 AM "Genesis" Worship 10:30 AM BD Jim Clark			Thanksgiving Worship 5:00 p Holy Communion	LCK Closed		Set Up Nativity & Decorate for Christmas 9 A BD Dave Motter
30 Bible Class 9 AM "Genesis" Worship 10:30 A Holy Communion	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3 No Adult Stu dy Midweek Advent 5:00 pm	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6

Upcoming Holiday Worship Schedule & Events

Sunday, November 2	10:30 Worship,	All Saints Day – Holy Communion
Sunday, November 9	10:30 Worship -	
Sunday, November 16	10:30 Worship -	– Commitment Sunday – Holy Communion Congregational Pitchin
Sunday, November 23	10:30 Worship	The Last Sunday of Church Year
Wednesday, November 26		Thanksgiving Eve Worship – 5:00 pm – Holy Communion
Sunday, November 30	10:30 Worship	– Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 3	5:00 Worship	Midweek Advent I
Sunday, December 7	10:30 Worship -	The First Sunday in Advent – Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 10	5:00 Worship	Midweek Advent II
Sunday, December 14	10:30 Worship -	Holy Communion
Wednesday, December 17	5:00 Worship	Midweek Advent III
Sunday, December 22	10:30 Worship -	
Wednesday, Christmas Eve	December 24	5:30 pm Candlelight Worship
Thursday, December 25	10:00 Worship	Christmas Day - Holy Communion
Sunday, December 29	10:30 Worship -	Holy Communion