



# LIVING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## Living Christ Connection

JUNE 2022

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### *“Lay the name of the Lord on me.”*

There is a very special Scripture text you have heard many, many times. Perhaps you have heard this text more often than any other. This text would be fitting at a baptism, confirmation, wedding or funeral. It would be fitting for any and every season of the Church Year. It's a Word of God that is spoken, chanted, and sung. It's a Word of God that is frequently used in making hospital calls, calls at nursing homes, at sickbeds anywhere and everywhere. It is Numbers 6: 24-26: *“The Lord*

*bless you and keep you.” The Lord make His face to shine upon you., and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”*

A very old professor was no longer able to go to church, but she would call her Pastor and ask if he would stop by and, as she would say, “Lay the name of the Lord upon me.” She really knew the significance of these precious words of our Lord's blessing.

#### *Lord, Bless Us*

Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord. Whether we're talking about the physical or the spiritual – the Lord is the source of all good. Knowing that, believing that, it makes a lot of sense to go to the Lord and to ask for His blessings, yes, to pray: Lord, bless us.

#### *And Keep Us*

Keep us safe. Keep us in Your protection. Keep us in the faith. Keep us from temptation. Keep us faithful: faithful to You, faithful to Your Word, faithful to one another. Keep us faithful in prayer. Keep us as Your very own for time and for all eternity.

#### *Lord, Make Your Face Shine Upon Us*

According to the Scriptures, when one's face is upon us or toward us – that signifies pleasure, satisfaction and approval. But when the Scriptures speak of one's face being against us, or turned away from us, that signifies displeasure, dissatisfaction, disapproval. Relying solely upon His amazing grace, mercy, and love – with the Psalmist we say: “God be merciful to us and bless us and cause Your face to shine upon us.” Psalm 67:1

#### *And Be Gracious Unto Us*

Lord, we have experienced Your gracious call, Your gracious invitation. We know about Your gracious will and work and words. Surround us with Your gracious presence. Continue to bestow upon us Your gracious love. Enfold us in Your gracious arms. Undeserving though we are, Lord, be gracious unto us.

#### *Lord, Lift Up Your Countenance Upon Us*

By countenance is usually meant the expression on one's face. A person's face often reflects his or her feelings. Displeasure is apt to cast a shadow over one's face – cause a frown. On the other hand, approval, assent, good news, will light up one's face. Now, we know that there is nothing in us or about us that is so great and wonderful as to light up the face of God. And yet, because of Jesus Who, through His suffering and death has made atonement for us, has cleansed us in His shed blood, and has made us, once again, God's very own, we can rest assured that God smiles upon us. We ask that He continue to do so as we pray: Lord, lift up Your countenance upon us: look upon us with favor –

#### *And Give Us Peace*

By peace, here, is meant peace between God and us brought about by Christ, the Prince of peace. This peace is rooted in the knowledge that in Jesus, God and sinners are reconciled, and that “God loves us dearly, grants us salvation.” Knowing this, believing this, resting on this – our hearts are filled with wonderful peace, peace that passes all understanding, peace that knows no measure. Let us boldly and daily pray the Aaronic Benediction!

We pray: So many times, our heavenly Father, we've heard these most familiar words. So many times they trigger in us the sense of an ending. So many times our minds are consumed by other thoughts as the Name of the Lord is laid on us. We pray for awareness, for boldness for thoughtfulness. As your word of peace is proclaimed, help us to hear and see it as a beginning, a sending forth in your protection, your mercy, your grace, your atonement, and your peace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

*Meditations written by Rev. Cecil H. Skibbe. Meditations adapted from Letters, Volume I and devotional pages written by Rev. Marcus Jauss*

## Founders Day (1996 – 2022)

Living Christ Lutheran Church comes again to the beginning of another year in ministry as a congregation to bring the Word of God to those at LCLC and to those who hear the message from our programs through LCK, the Plainfield and surrounding community, and through our video ministry.

Each Sunday we see our Chancel Cross above our Altar conveying the message of salvation and the reminder that we are to “Go Tell” - *the purpose for which we began as a community of believers in 1996 — to bring the saving Gospel message to the people in Hendricks County (Danville, Avon, & Plainfield).*



Living Christ Lutheran Church held its first worship service in the Union Federal Bank Building Fellowship Room on Sunday, June 6, 1996, in Danville, Indiana, and moved into our facility in Plainfield to serve our Lord and Savior with the Living Christ for Kids (LCK) ministry and to the surrounding community.

God has richly blessed our congregation with faithful members and pastors who have brought Word and Sacrament to us. Even though we have faced challenges in our ministry, our leaders and pastors continue to look for ways to share Word and Sacrament to our members and the community.

## Thanks to our Guest Pastors

Pastor Doug Irmer and Pastor Paul Klopke have been filling the pulpit during May and will continue to share the pulpit in June, July, and August. We have been blessed with their willingness to bring us Word and Sacrament and to help with the sick & shut-in visits for these weeks.

**Pastor Doug Irmer** lives in Avon and is a member of St. Peter Lutheran (10<sup>th</sup> & Rural) in Indianapolis. He was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is a 1981 Concordia Teachers' College, Seward, Nebraska graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and a 1985 graduate of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne with a Master of Divinity degree. His vicarage was at the Community Lutheran Church, South Burlington, Vermont. His first congregation was Christ Lutheran Church, Dudley Massachusetts from 1985-1987. He served Christ Lutheran Church in Cairo, Nebraska from 1987-1997 and then St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beatrice, Nebraska from 1997 until 2017 before retiring and moving to Indiana. He and his wife Carol have 2 children. Son, Mitchell, a Lieutenant nuclear propulsion officer in the U.S. Navy, and his wife Minte have three sons, Eli (4), Theodore (2 1/2) and Felix (6 mos), and are relocating to Monterrey, California. Daughter Holly and her husband John James are due to return from Jerusalem in July after three years attaining Master's degrees. John has been accepted into a doctoral program at State University of New York in Buffalo.

“**Pastor Paul**” Klopke currently serves part time chaplain/ministry facilitator for Voice of Care — Indiana District deployed by Northern Illinois District. Voice of Care is a RSO of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He has served as a ministry chaplain on and off with Voice of Care for the past nine years. For more information about Pastor Paul see [VoiceofCare.org](http://VoiceofCare.org)

Paul has served as pastor at Living Christ Lutheran Church (16 years) and St. Peter Lutheran Church and School (7 years), both in Arlington Heights, IL before moving to Indianapolis.

He and his wife has two children Philip Klopke (wife: Kyrie) and Jillian Hewitt (husband: Matthew) who live in Nashville TN. They also have two grandsons with a third grandson due July 1.

*“Lay the Name of the Lord on me!”*

*Bless us    Keep us    Make your face shine upon us  
Be gracious unto us    Lift up your countenance upon us    Give us peace*

## Congregational Worship & Pitch in – Sunday, June 5

To celebrate this milestone and the beginning of another year, Living Christ will gather for a Worship with Holy Communion and a Congregational Pitchin on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Join us in giving thanks for the past and asking for God's continued blessing and guidance for the future.

## June Birthday Blessings



June 1	Dave McMullen
June 15	Glenn Riechmann
June 20	Bill Heaton
June 29	Emmett Fuehrer

## June Wedding Anniversaries

June 18, 1972	Dale & Lynda Funk	20 years
June 21, 1985	Jim & Nancy Clark	37 years
June 24, 1978	Emmett & Karla Fuehrer	44 years





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 Founders Day</b> Worship 10:30 am Pastor Irmer Holy Communion <b>Pitchin Dinner</b>	6	7	8	9 Brainstorm Committee 5 pm	10	11
12 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Klopke Voters - Tentative	13	14 	15	16	17	18
<b>19 Father's Day</b> Worship 10:30 am Pastor Klopke Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Irmer	27	28	29	30		

## TO CHANT OR NOT TO CHANT?

### What is a Chant?

To chant is to speak or sing rhythmically, in words or sounds. There is a wide variety of different types of chanting, from basic two-note chants to simple melodies, to complex melodies and harmonies. There are chants that are considered to be a form of speech and others that are considered to be music. Chanting is thought to be one of the first forms of what is now Western music. Battle cries, the shouts of protesters, and even the calls of sports fans can be considered chanting.

### What does the Bible say about Chanting?

There is nothing in the Bible that says *how* we are to sing, technically speaking. Chanting or singing, the Bible tells us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 95:1–2). The question of whether a Christian should chant is therefore mostly a question of motive. We know that the Bible commands psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, so these are condoned as a form of worship (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). We also know that there are songs that are displeasing to God. When Israel had turned away from God in their hearts, He said that He would no longer listen to the melody of their harps or the noise of their “idle” songs (Amos 5:23; 6:5). Taking away the ability to make music was sometimes a sign of judgment on Israel and on other nations (Amos 8:3, 10; Ezekiel 26:13). Music itself, whether accompanied by instrumentation or simply sung with the voice, is not evil. But when a song is given to God out of the wrong motive—or directed to an idol—it is wicked. We can say the same of chanting.

### Is it good to Chant?

Chant and song, like prayer, can be performed with a wrong motive. For example, chanting in order to appease God by vain repetitions or empty phrases is wrong. Chanting in order to induce a trance-like state is wrong. Chanting in order to gain the approval of men or to appear righteous is wrong (Matthew 6:5, 7). God calls that kind of behavior hypocritical.

On the other hand, a chant or song, like prayer, can be given for the right reasons: to worship God, to express thanks and dependence on Him, and to petition Him. If a prayer is from a thankful, dependent heart, it is a beautiful expression of worship. The prayerful hymn “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee,” found in many evangelical hymnals, was originally written in Latin and is still used as a chant in some churches. Whether the prayer is sung, spoken, or chanted, nothing of substance changes.

Another consideration is *what* is being chanted. Chanting is common in yoga, Buddhism, and Native

American worship rituals. Of course, the words and the motives for chanting in pagan religions are unbiblical. Chanting used to connect the human soul to evil spirits is harmful. When a person’s motive is to pray to or petition an idol or demonic spirit, and chanting is the method used to make that connection, that kind of chanting is evil. Chants or mantras spoken or sung for the purpose of opening the mind to undefined spiritual influences are also dangerous.

Chanting in a church setting is usually associated with Catholicism, but other liturgical traditions such as Lutheranism also employ chanting. Some chants, such as *Asperges*, are based on Scripture and are eminently biblical. Other chants, such as *Ave Maria* and *Salve Regina*, are nothing more than prayers to Mary and are therefore unbiblical. In the Lutheran Liturgy, chanting is used in the Matins and Vespers service formats. Even in the regular orders of service the liturgy offers the opportunity to use spoken or sung responses .

### Therefore, is Chanting good or evil?

In conclusion, chanting, as a form of expression, is not, in itself, evil. A chant is like a song or a prayer. Its rightness or wrongness depends on the purpose of the chant, the subject of the chant, and the motive of the mind, heart, and voice producing the chant.

## Our Financial Reports for 2022

The financial report for 2022 is encouraging and remind us of our continued ministry within LCLC and LCK. The Grant monies are being tracked separately from the LCLC and LCK Spending Plans as approved by the Voters in 2021 for this current year. The charts below show the income and expenses for the first four months and then the YTD chart also includes the other assets within the LCEF and the Savings Accounts in the bank. The monthly deficit in the monthly LCK report is reflecting the challenge LCK has with months that have 3 pay periods within the month. The Grant chart shows the total received from each grant, the expenses as the end of April with the balance still available as we prepare to move into the projects in the second grant. We must continue to be good stewards of the financial blessings we have received from the faithful giving of our members, the income received in LCK, and the gift of the Grants.

April 2022	LCLC		Year to Date Total Assets LCLC	
Income			Income/Assets	
Envelope	\$ 7,731		Envelope	\$ 54,472
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500		LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 30,000
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 860		Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 8,814
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 16,091</b>		LCEF Account	\$ 23,804
			LCLC Saving Acct	\$ 22,470
Expenses	\$ 16,718		<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 139,560</b>
Difference	\$ (627)			
			Total Expenses	\$ 70,035
			Difference	\$ 69,525

	LCK		Year to Date Total Assets LCK	
Daycare Income	\$ 47,228		Income/Assets	
			Income	\$ 199,643
			Saving Account	\$ 38,125
			<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 237,768</b>
Expenses	\$ 57,020		Total Daycare Expenses	\$ 235,802
Difference	\$ (9,792)		Difference	\$ 1,966

Grant Income/Expenses	
Income/Assets	
Grant A Part 1 Income	\$ 76,800
Grant A Part 2 Income	\$ 82,039
Grant B Income	\$ 304,157
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 462,996</b>
Total Grant Expenses 2021 -2022	\$ 121,711
Difference	\$ 341,285

## Our Flag

Recalling the story of our Flag and the history of the symbolism included in the years of the USA growing into the country as we know it today is brought to mind when flags are used on Memorial Day in May, on Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> and on the Fourth of July. We are reminded of the peace and unity we seek and the efforts made by our leaders and military toward preserving the country we pray stays united for the purpose as first stated in the Declaration of Independence (*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,<sup>[6]</sup> that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*) and then continued within our Constitution (*"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. . . ."*)



## What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

*"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."*

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

*"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."*

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

*"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."*

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?



Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry:

## Brainstorm Committee Reports

The Brainstorm Committee has been evaluating, discussing, and preparing the documents to send to our District President Brege to help in our search for our next Pastor. The many surveys returned gave our members and the LCK family a chance to share their input in these steps. Thank you for sharing.

**At the Q & A Opportunity on May 22, the committee shared a summary of the surveys (see summary below) and answered questions about the plans and steps with the vacancy. Our congregational self-study and goals has been sent to Pastor Janssen, our circuit visitor, who has forwarded it to President Brege. We have scheduled a Voters meeting tentatively for June 12 with the hope that we may have received a list of names to consider for extending a call. We pray for the Lord's guidance and direction for the decisions to be made for the ministry and future visions of LCLC.**

### What Is Our Lord's Will for Living Christ?

- Grow individually in the Word, Be a witness of God's grace, Be the instruments as God's directs
- Grow in bringing the gospel of Christ to others and to those who do not know or have any knowledge of Christ. Bring back those who have strayed or have not been to church since childhood.

### What Steps Can We Take To Fulfill Our Lord's Will?

- Explore ways to reach out: - invitation to parents of LCK, Host a community event, see about getting our church highlighted in Plainfield Flyer
- It may be the first interaction people have with a church body so need to come to people on a level they understand and a way that is inviting. Meet the needs of the people while keeping it Christ-centered. Pray, Pray, Pray

### What Is Necessary For An Effective Relationship Between The Pastor And The Congregation?

- A minister with some prior experience and a willingness to try new things, a more up-to-date approach
- Openness, meeting members where they are at, sermons that address current situations in today's world and how Christ would want us to be

### How Can Congregational Members Increase The Ministry Of Living Christ?

- By attendance in worship and bible study and by inviting others
- Willing to help in the work of the church – witnessing, praying, giving of time, talent, treasure, share ideas to extend the kingdom

### What Do You See As The Necessary Steps To Be Taken To See Our Church Grow?

- Willing to work together, be supportive to our members and inviting to new visitors
- A more “modern” approach” Preaching in a way that the congregation feels included rather than just hearing words

### What Are The Immediate Needs For Living Christ?

- Finding a pastor to be our spiritual leader that is a visionary, a team leader who can excite our people in the ministry and the work at Living Christ, a “builder” in God's kingdom
- Get members back attending regularly. If more children – meet their needs, more communication among members
- Pastoral leadership, reach out to shut-ins & sick, involvement of members in any areas

### What New Initiatives Would You Like To See Started At Living Christ?

- Resume and expand our social events, develop small group Bible Studies, encourage others to be a part of our ministry, offer other options for education, needed counseling, connect with community with other opportunities to connect with LCLC
- Outreach

### How Can Congregation Members Take On More Responsibility For The Ministry at Living Christ?

- Help with work that needs to be done on the church when able, volunteer, become involved in reach out groups
- 1. Attend church, 2. Everyone make potential visitors welcome, 3 at socials at church, NO ONE should be sitting by themselves
- Involvement in the many service opportunities, volunteer for leadership positions, bring family & friends to church, communicate ideas they may have for ministry/outreach

### Do You Want LCK To Grow?

- Yes, but with good leadership and vision
- to capacity!

### What Role Should The Pastor Play Regarding LCK?

- Christian Leadership and role model. Listener encouragement, the face of the church
- Spiritual leader for kids with chapel and prayer time. Connect as source for parents for prayer, guidance, and spiritual direction
- Weekly chapel services, outreach to parents & staff – develop relationships

### What Steps Can The Congregation Take To Fulfill The Lord's Will In LCK?

- Be patient with one another, communicate with the Pastor and the committee leaders on your needs, Reach out to members who are shut-ins
- Stay united and focused
- Pray for LCK look for ways to engage with staff & parents