



LIVING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.livingchristplainfield.com

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Living Christ Connection

May 2025

Remembering

May is a month for remembering. We remember our mothers and thank God for them. We may give them a gift or flowers as a way of saying thank you to them and how much we love them.

May is also when we remember all the men and women who died in war in defense of our country and others. We offer our prayers for the families that grieve their deaths, and we may also place flags and flowers at graves and other places to honor their sacrifice. Their lives were given so that others might live.

May is also the month in which we observe Ascension Day (May 29), when Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after he rose from the dead. Jesus' death meant that our punishment for sin was paid. His resurrection shows us that because he lives we shall live also. With his ascension we have the promise that he will return to take us to where he is.

It is important for us to remember that we don't know when we will pass from this life or when he will return and for these reasons we should remember to always be ready. Keeping our faith strong in the Lord removes any doubt about what happens to us. It allows us to eagerly anticipate our resurrection and the life in the world to come.

We may have many dates and occasions to remember in the month of May, but may we always remember what the Lord has done, give him praise and honor, and be ready. While we wait, let's share the good news of Jesus and encourage each other in the faith. No flowers are needed but all our thanks is due to him who loved us first.

Pastor Latzke



Reading Your Bible – Is it **SOIL** or **SOAP**?

Both **SOIL** and **SOAP** are powerful tools to help you as you read your daily scripture readings. But what are these tools?

The **SOIL** method is reading **S**cripture, **O**bservation of the message is, thinking about the **I**nterpretation, and looking for the **L**ife Application.

The **SOAP** method starts the same with reading **S**cripture, **O**bservation of the message, **A**pplication to my faith and life, **P**ray for God's help to accomplish His will.

Both approaches complement the reading of Scriptures perfectly, guiding you through the verses in a way that's both structured and meaningful. Best of all, each method only takes about 15 minutes a day, making it easy to stay consistent in your spiritual growth, even with a busy schedule! Reading Scripture encourages, challenges, and equips you to follow Jesus in every aspect of life. Whether you're seeking peace, strength, or a deeper connection with the Lord, God's Word offers intentional verses to help you grow spiritually and stay grounded in truth. May God bless your time in His Word!.

The Bible Readings listed on the May calendar are given in a chronological order of events of the Scriptures. You will notice that Job is the middle of the readings from Genesis. Bible scholars believe in their recent historical research that the events of Job happened after Creation and in the early days of the world. This reading plan will cover the entire Bible within a year

Stewardship in the Body of Christ --Lessons from Baseball

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.



Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

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)

These works aren’t random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as 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!



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Genesis 1-3	Genesis 4-7	Genesis 8-11
4 Adult Bible Class 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion Job 1-5	5 Pastor Conference Job 6-9	6 Pastor Conference BD Katie Stout Job 10-13	7 Pastor Conference Who Are We? Info – 6:30 pm Job 14-16	8 Job 17-20	9 LCK Muffins with Mommy 6:30-8 am Job 21-23	10 Job 24-28
11 Adult Bible Class 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Mite Dedication Job 29-31	12 Job 32-34	13 Job 35-37	14 Who Are We? Info – 6:30 pm Job 38-39	15 Wedding Rehearsal 5 pm Job 40-42	16 Willett-Walts Wedding 3:30 pm Genesis 12-15	17 Genesis 16-18
18 Adult Bible Class 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion Genesis 19-21	19 Genesis 22-24	20 Pre-K Pancakes 6:30-8 am Church Council 6 PM Genesis 25-26	21 BD Lynn Johnson Who Are We? Info – 6:30 pm Genesis 27-29	22 LCK Pre-Kdg Graduation 7 PM Genesis 30-31	23 Genesis 32-34	24 Genesis 35-37
25 Adult Bible Class 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Genesis 38-40	26 Memorial Day LCK Closed Genesis 41-42	27 Genesis 43-45	28 Who Are We? Info – 6:30 pm Genesis 46-47	29 Genesis 48-50	30 Exodus 1-3	31

Founders Day & New Member Congregational Pitchin – Sunday, June 1

Living Christ Lutheran Church, held its first worship service on the first Sunday in June, 1996 in Danville. Our first service in our current facility in Plainfield was held on Christmas Eve in 2003. LCK opened its doors as a registered ministry of Living Christ in January, 2004. Through the challenges and the blessings, our God has led us to be His instrument in mission and ministry. Praise to our Lord and Savior!

Mark your calendar for June 1st to celebrate our birthday and to welcome our new members. Watch for more details.

Our Lenten Gathering for Family Promise for the Plainfield Community

Thank you for your donations during March and April to support this ministry of Family Promise here in Plainfield as they work to help the homeless face their challenges and become self-supporting and self-sustaining. Your gifts of diapers, toiletries, linens, food, and the many other items that filled the table are helpful for their ministry.



OUR FINANCIALS

March 2025	LCLC		Year to Date Total Assets LCLC	
Income			Income/Assets	
Envelope	\$ 6,281		Envelope	\$ 35,194
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500		LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 22,500
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 333		Bld Fund/Loan/Misc/ transfers	\$ 16,159
Transferred from Savings	\$ 0		LCEF Account	\$ 34,814
Total Income	\$ 14,114		LCLC Checking Balance 12/31/24	\$ 15,141
			Total Cash Assets	\$ 123,808
Expenses	\$ 19,282			
Difference	\$ (5,168)		Total Expenses	\$ 63,017
			Difference	\$ 60,791

March 2025	LCK		Year to Date Total Assets LCK	
Daycare Income	\$ 61,969		Income/Assets	
Other Income	\$ 0		Income	\$ 184,049
Total Income	\$ 61,969		Saving Account	\$ 0
			LCK Checking Balance 12/31/24	\$ 24,504
			Total Cash Assets	\$ 208,554
Expenses	\$ 52,545		Total Daycare Expenses	\$ 174,361
Difference	\$ 9,424		Difference	\$ 34,193

March 2025 LCLC Endowment Account		
Balance	\$ 2,309	