

MISSION & MINISTRY CONNECTION

It's *STILL* All About Jesus 2018

Odds of winning the top prize in the Mega Millions Jackpot were 1 in 302,575,350.
Odds of God always taking care of us: **100%**.

Nope, I did not win the \$1.6 billion in the Mega Million lottery, but, if I did win it would change my life and I wouldn't have a care in the world...at least that is what people say who buy a ticket. Even though the odds are clearly against winning, people cling to the tiny, tiny chance they could win. The draw is very strong to dream about such winnings.

How does something as simple as the Apostles' Creed help us understand that winning the lottery may appear exciting but will never replace the guarantee that God makes to us every day. Unlike the odds of winning a lottery, the odds of God taking care of us is always 100%. Where do you find odds like that? Nowhere else can you get such a promise than with a God who loves us so much. As our heavenly Father, and out of love, promises to take care of us in all our needs. That is a promise and a guarantee that is life changing and what we give thanks for every Sunday in worship and in our daily prayers.

Want to learn more about thankfulness for all that God gives to us? The Large and Small Catechism is the key to not only fully understanding this "thankfulness" but so much more about ones faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Apostles' Creed, in its First Article, is essential to grasping the odds of God taking care of us (which again is 100%). Let me briefly share some excerpts from the Large Catechism First Article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that 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. This is most certainly true.

The Creed is nothing other than the answer and confession of Christians arranged with respect to the First Commandment. It is as if you were to ask a little child, "My

dear, what sort of a God do you have? What do you know about Him?" The child could say, *"This is my God: first, the Father, who has created heaven and earth. Besides this One only, I regard nothing else as God. For there is no one else who could create heaven and earth."* (399: 10-11)

We also confess that God the Father has not only given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but He daily preserves and defends us against all evil and misfortune. He directs all sorts of danger and disaster away from us.

We confess that He does all this out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a kind Father. He cares for us so that no evil falls upon us.

We ought, therefore, daily to recite this article. We ought to impress it upon our mind and remember it by all that meets our eyes and by all good that falls to us.

Wherever we escape from disaster or danger, we ought to remember that it is God who gives and does all these things. In these escapes we sense and see His fatherly heart and His surpassing love toward us. In this way the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, and to use all such good things to honor and praise God (Luther's Large Catechism, *emphasis added*)

Here are some amazing Bible passages for you to study as you deepen your understanding and trust in God's care.

Matthew 28: 19

Mark 10: 6-8a

Psalms 33: 6

Psalms 139: 13-14a

Malachi 2: 10

Acts 17: 26

Psalms 19: 1

John 1: 1-3

Genesis 1: 27-28

Ephesians 3: 14-15

Psalms 139: 1-4

Colossians 1: 15-17

Let me give you a few notes on some of the passages above and how to understand the context:

Mark 10:6-8a Jesus affirms the Genesis account of the creation of man in the image of God as male and female, but He also firmly underscores the institution of marriage and the offices of husband, wife, father, and mother as the God-given foundational order and pattern for human existence. This is reflected in the Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, "He also gives me ... house and home, wife and children." These are the institutions and offices through which God the Father continues to create and care for human life. To reject or attack the biblical portrait of masculinity and femininity and their corresponding offices of husband and father, wife and mother, destroys the foundation of marriage and family as God ordained them and results in the disintegration of human society and culture.

Ephesians 3: 14-15 In the context of giving glory to the Father for the gift of grace and salvation in His Son, the Apostle Paul affirms that the first person of the Holy Trinity truly is God the Father and the source and determiner of all life. To speak of the first person of the Trinity as "Father" immediately draws our attention to the truth that He is the Father of the eternal Son, the

second person of the Trinity. One cannot speak correctly about the person of God the Father without also speaking about His only Son our Lord, through whom the Father created all things, by whom humanity was redeemed from the curse of sin, and in whom we are to find the meaning and purpose of life as it is lived from what God gives. The phrase “from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” takes us back to creation when God the Father “called” all things into being by His Word and then pronounced them “good” as He created and ordered them. He is the Father of all things, but we as human beings are to understand and find our identity most especially in how God the Father has “named” and ordered us as His children. In Jesus Christ the Son of God in the flesh, we see all that God intended man to be.

I encourage you to rest in God’s promise to care for you and watch over you. You are not alone. I welcome you to be in weekly Divine Worship to receive God’s gifts and hear of his promises to love and care for you.

Pastor Below

A Note from our Director of Music and Worship

The last Sunday in the Church Year is also known as “Christ the King Sunday.” There is particular focus on the second coming of Christ, and on Jesus’ rule over heaven and earth. This year it falls on November 25, the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day, and the Gospel lesson is from Mark 13:24-37. This text is the second half of a long answer from Jesus in response to some of the disciples asking about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. They had all been in the temple, where Jesus had been teaching, and when they left, one of the disciples marveled at the physical appeal of the temple, saying, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” (v. 1). Jesus, in His usual way, responds not just to the spoken words, but with a deeper meaning: “There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down” (v. 2).

This cryptic answer causes Peter, James, John, and Andrew to ask Him what He meant by that. Jesus goes on to give them 32 verses of answer, and talks about the end of the physical world. The disciples surely got more than they bargained for!

The temple in Jerusalem had been the embassy, so to speak, of heaven on earth. With the birth of Jesus, however, it would no longer serve that purpose, as Christ Himself is that embassy, dwelling bodily among us. Jesus warns the disciples of the fall of Jerusalem, which happened during the Jewish revolt against the Romans in AD 66-70. Those events foreshadowed the end of the world, when Jesus will return. At that time, He will judge all humanity, fulfilling both the prophecies of the Old Testament as well as His own predictions. Before Christ returns, evil will permeate the world and bring terror and destruction. This is certainly a fearsome truth! But because Jesus died and rose for us, and because the Holy Spirit creates and sustains saving faith in His people, we can be sure of our salvation, no matter how terrible and terrifying the Last Day will be.

But we aren't there yet. We are in an in between time, nestled between the fall of Jerusalem and the Second Coming. God has created and designed this time so that we may come to faith and call others to faith and salvation (Concordia Study Bible, Mark 13:28-31 text note). I don't know about you, but this is particularly tough for me. I like to know what my schedule is going to be. I like to know when I have meetings, when rehearsals will start, when I will have free time—when, when, when. But God the Father has not revealed that part of the plan, not even to the Son (Mark 13:32). So rather than waste time trying to figure out the mind and good plan of God, our focus must be on bringing the Gospel to those who do not yet know Christ as Savior and Lord. As the Church Year draws to a close, let us remember to remain vigilant for the Lord's second coming, keeping watch, and waiting eagerly.

Elin Gomez

Preschool & Kids' Day Out

Our October events have been in full swing! Thirty-five preschool children and 44 adults attended our Annual Family Field Trip to Thies Farm on Friday, October 12. Even though the weather was dreary, there were many smiling faces as the children rode the hay wagon, went through the hay bale mazes, swung on the zip line, and enjoyed a snack together.

Our Pre-Kindergarten, Awesome 4's class, and Junior Kindergarten students walked to the Monarch Fire Department the third week of October. The firefighters were extremely kind to give us tours of the fire house, the fire trucks and the ambulance. The children had the opportunity to sit in the fire truck and received their very own fire hats and coloring books. When they returned to school there was much discussion about the appropriate reasons to dial 9-1-1 and how to "stop, drop, and roll!"

At the end of October the children always look forward to our Annual Pumpkin Decorating with Dad event and our individual class Halloween parties. It is so much fun to observe their excitement about their costumes for the Costume Parade and winning as much candy as possible playing games.

Our Bible focus this month has been on consequences for bad behavior (The Tower of Babel); God has a plan for us (God's Promise to Abraham); God is always with us (Jacob's Troubles); and God brings forgiveness to families (Joseph and His Brothers). In Sonshine Time we built a tower out of blocks and practiced listening to instructions that were in English and in another language and discussed how God thwarted the people's plan and scattered the people by giving them different languages. Last week we discussed Jacob's "bad idea" to fool his father, Isaac, into thinking that he was his brother, Esau. We passed around different types of material and described how they felt. Angels that we cut from paper plates and decorated with glitter moved up and down the ladder that we created to remind us how God watches over and has His own blessing for us.

The first week of November is our Scholastic Book Fair. We hope that members of the congregation will use the Fair as an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping! The teachers are so appreciative of the fulfillment of their classroom wish lists, too!

Ann Uschold

Kids' Day Out

Happy Fall Y'all!! Our Kids' Day Out classes are enjoying all the beautiful fall wonders that God has sent to us! Their favorites are apples, pumpkins, trees and leaves! You can see all of the "artwork" in our room or on the bulletin board in the hallway.

After 7 weeks, we are all still getting to know each other but everything is running smoothly! They have already figured out our class schedule. Routines are very important for children this age and we keep everything the same everyday so they become comfortable because they know what is going to happen next!

Every month we focus on a color, a shape and counting. The children love to sing and do fingerplays and of course, read books! Circle Time and Jesus Time are always favorites but some of them just love to play outside or look forward to lunchtime!

We spend a lot of time on manners, self-help skills, sharing and learning how to use their voices. We incorporate both large and small motor activities throughout our day. Keeping this age engaged in any activity is always a plus and one for which we strive.

We look forward to the year ahead and we feel fortunate to be a part of their spiritual journey, in addition to their personal and academic achievements! It is so enjoyable to watch this age grow and mature in such a short time! They are truly God's gifts!

Kathy Michele Nickel and Cathy Dailey

2018 Annual Congregation Voters Meeting

What good is a "LUTHERAN POT-LUCK" meal without a voters meeting to go with it? Save the date, **Sunday, November 11th**. There will be a **SINGLE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM** with a Pot Luck Meal and voters meeting following worship. Business topics include; 2019 Budget Presentation, Election of new Officers & Members to Mission & Ministry Council and as always great fellowship time with each other. Your church needs YOU! Make some time to join us, hear what's going on with the church's ministries and bring your favorite dish to share (entree, salad or desert)....."We're looking forward to tasting each one" and seeing you there!

Mission & Ministry Council

Ties That Bind 2018 Update

Mission Projects

Hand-tied Quilts (60 inches X 80 inches, baby and child sized)
 School Bags (filled with donations from VBS and the congregation)
 Dress Kits (3-4 yards of fabric and thread)
 Bears (Comfort and prayer)
 Pillow Case Dresses
 Neck Pillows

Where Projects Go

Lutheran World Relief
 Ronald McDonald House
 CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
 Dominican Republic
 Hurricane Relief
 Foster Care and Foster Camps
 Hospice Care
 Lord of Life Fall Festival
 Orphanages

Distributed in 2018

98 quilts
 52 school bags
 17 dress kits
 202 bears
 67 pillow case dresses
 33 neck pillows
 11 baby quilts
 46 youth quilts

Come join us if you would like to help. Some of the skills needed include sorting, cutting, machine-straight stitching lines, hand tying and hand quilting. We meet on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 – 2:00. Bring your lunch for fellowship at noon. We take a break in December.

If you are cleaning out your fabric stash, we accept donations of cotton fabric, fleece and flannel. We can also use gently used or new sheets.

Hand Quilting -We can do hand quilting on your heirloom or newly made quilt top. The funds raised from this are used to cover supply expenses and shipping costs.

Thank You to everyone that has supported us with donations of fabric, sheets, shipping costs, making deliveries, and prayers. It is greatly appreciated as we work to help others.

Staff & Preschool Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, November 4th is being set aside for our members to say Thank You to our church Staff and our Preschool Staff. This year is especially note worthy in that there are some Special Anniversary's being celebrated. Sharon Koch has reached her 15th year as office administrator. This is Pastor Mark's 10th year here at Lord of Life and Elin Gomez has been our Director of Music Worship for 5 years. This Sunday we will also formally recognize and install Ann Ushold as the Interim Preschool Director along with the entire Preschool teaching staff. Several of which have been with our Preschool for 15 or more years.

Please find a way to personally say "Thank You" to these servants; Staff and Teachers of HIS church. Your cards, gifts and kind words mean so much. Then join us at a meet & greet reception in the fellowship hall in between the two services during the Sunday School hour. Thank you for taking your time to say; "THANK YOU" and to show your appreciation.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities. God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

“I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It’s law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that’s the point.

In Mark’s account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples’ five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn’t say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn’t stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn’t need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don’t give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

RETURN TO BETHLEHEM - December 7, 8 and 9

Here are the instructions for another successful RTB presentation.

- #1. Mark the dates on your calendar
- #2. Tell everyone you know how RTB at LOL can help share the REAL "reason for the season"
- #3. Say "YES, I CAN" when you get the call to be a part of this annual tradition.
- #4. Learn your lines to help tell the story to that ONE PERSON who maybe has yet to know the good news!
- #5. Come and lend a hand with set up or take down or providing food for the cast and crew.
- #6. Pray that our Lord would encourage many to come, many to serve and many to see & feel Christ presence in the Bethlehem manger.

Come help tell the story of the coming of our Savior.

November Circle of Concern Needs:

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta
- Canned Vegetables
- Dinner Helpers
- Deodorant
- Snacks

The Yellow Meal-A-Month Bags are on the Circle of Concern barrel in the entryway. Please take one, bring your items in those bags or a paper bag, and place them in the barrel. Circle has informed us that they can no longer reuse plastic grocery bags. They can only accept brown paper bags.

Our goal is 500+ cans each month. Thanks for your support!

November Baptism Birthdays:

Taylor Burlis	11/2
Tom Churchill	11/15
Meredith Springs	11//17
Yvette Hagstrom	11/20
Leah Schamber	11/25
Alice Schamber	11/26
Marilyn Evensen	11/27
Elle Laue	11/27
Chad Gutzler	11/28
Tim Wissmann	11/28
Tom Dickson	11/29
William Laue	11/29
Debbie Marx	11/30

Happy Birthday To:

Rebecca Smith	11/2
Alice Schamber	11/3
Jean Urban	11/4
Marilyn Evensen	11/7
Margie Jacob	11/8
Tom Dickson	11/9
Carol DuMontier	11/9
Sara Sidhu	11/12
Beth Bossi	11/14
Fred Schulz	11/15
Bill Churchill	11/17
Laura May	11/17
Peggy Krause	11/18
Jay Duenow	11/20
Henry Paulsell	11/20
Elin Gomez	11/22
Joe Mowczko	11/22
Ken Lichtenheld	11/26
Jim Urban	11/26
Marty Schamber	11/27
Diane Guenther	11/29
Denis DuMontier	11/30

November Wedding Anniversaries:

Earl & Dorothea Becker	11/7
Wayne & Mary Kinzel	11/7
Jeremy & Jennifer Schamber	11/19
Brian & Sue Andrew	11/24

Serving Teams

Nov 4 8:00 Team 5
 10:30 Team 10

Nov 11 10:00 Team 7 -11

Nov 18 8:00 Team 2
 10:30 Team 8

Nov 22 10:00 Team 1

Nov 25 8:00 Team 3
 10:30 Team 6

Lay Readers

Nov 4 8:00 Zach Zeigler
 10:30 Kristie Nolan

Nov 11 10:00 Diane Wolf

Nov 18 8:00 Mark Kammeyer
 10:30 John Dye

Nov 22 10:00 Mark Bossi

Nov 25 8:00 Tracy Heaton
 10:30 Sharon Delmore

Nursery – 10:30

Nov 4 Carla May

Nov 11 Barb Below

Nov 18 Kristin Dye

Nov 25 Schamber Family

Lay Ministers

Nov 4 8:00 Ted Greer
 10:30 Joe Delmore

Nov 11 10:00 Donnie May

Nov 18 8:00 Ken Rosemann
 10:30 Brian Andrew

Nov 22 10:00 Ted Greer

Nov 15 8:00 Gene Valett
 10:30 Nehemiah Langness

Counting Teams

Nov 4 Jean Urban
 Sue Andrew

Nov 11 Elaine Robertson
 Jan Mantovani

Nov 18 Peggy Krause
 Gene Valett

Nov 25 Steve Mueller
 Carol DuMontier

Altar Guild

Team #4

Janet Kammeyer
 Carla May
 Debbie Schelp
 Charlene Valett