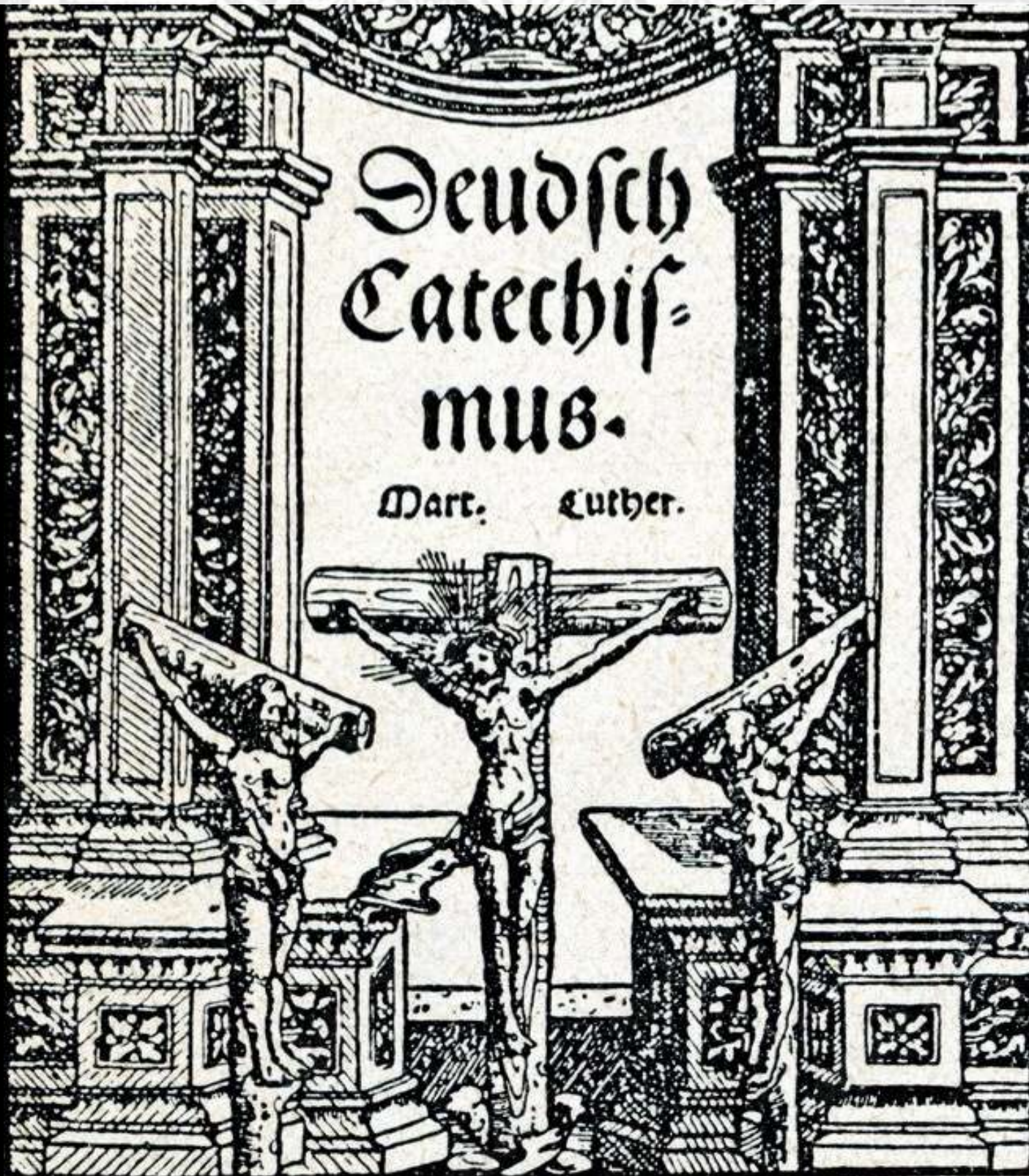


LIFE IN CHRIST

Receiving God's Gifts — Sharing God's Gifts

The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Jackson, MS

+ Reformation 2023 +



1529

On the Cover:

Deudsch Catechismus

(Title page of the first edition of Luther's Large Catechism)

1529

Life in Christ

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4423 I-55 North
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(601) 366-2055

www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org

Rev. George Fields
Sr. Sara Fields

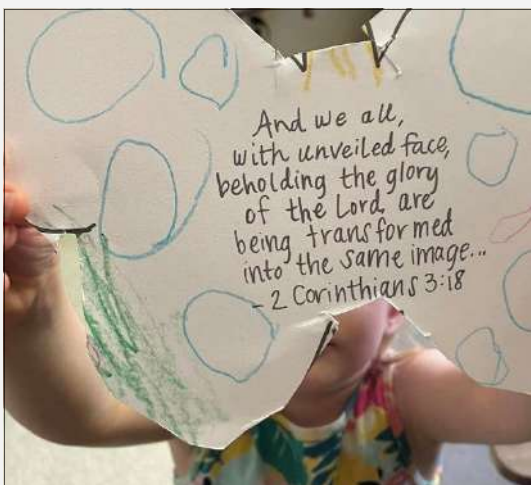


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GLORY

The ancients once wrote that: “True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written; and writing what deserves to be read.”

We are soon to be leaving the ‘green days’ behind us, those days dedicated to the teachings of Jesus, and we are entering into the ‘Festival Season,’ that part of the year where we celebrate the great Sacrifice made upon the Cross, the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels, the Reformation, the Victory of all Christ’s Saints, the Advent of the Lord, His Incarnation and birth, the Revelation of His Divinity, His suffering in the wilderness, and finally His Passion, death, descent into Hell, His Resurrection, and Ascension.

This is to say that we are leaving the time of learning, even learning the things of God, and entering into the season of doing, that is, Christ doing the works of God. We commemorate these works, and we celebrate them in what we call ‘feasts,’ and this season of feasts, we call the ‘Festival Season.’

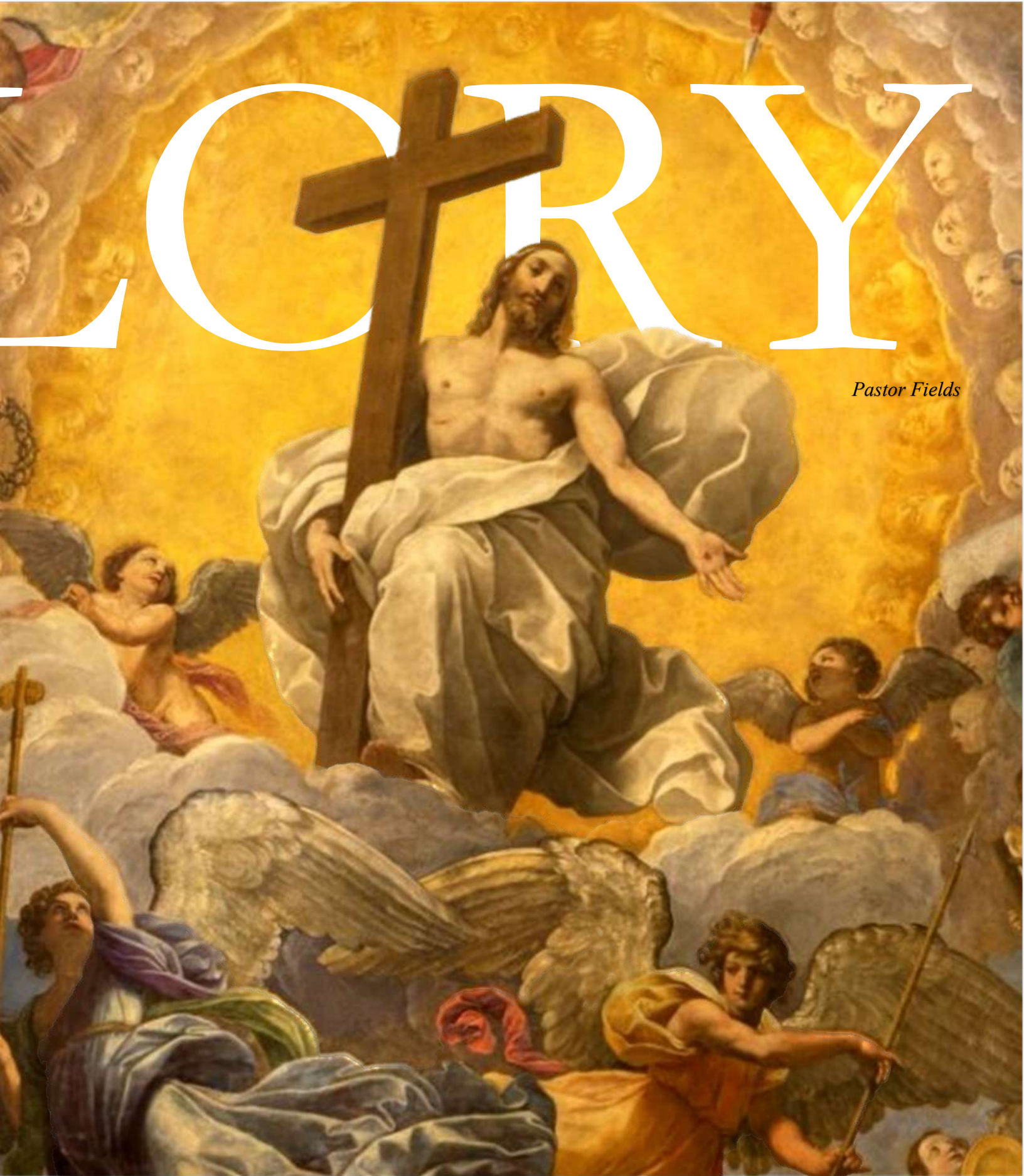
We do not waste time recalling the deep thoughts of men, nor do we dedicate days to them. Rather, we recall the great works of men, and in this coming half of the year, we will recall the greatest of works of God made man.

Therefore, let us march through the life of the Christ, bringing to mind His every action for us, that walking through His life, we may know who He is, and see His face, even as He intended for us as He walked in the Garden.

For His works truly deserve to be written, and deserve to be read.

For this season, this is the Glory of the Lord. ■





GLORY

Pastor Fields





CHRIST LUTHERAN Quilters

Our quilters have been hard at work, even pulling “double-shifts,” with back-to-back days for their usual monthly get-togethers. If you have ever seen the Fellowship Hall transformed into a quilting workshop, you understand the dedication involved. The ladies have to push tables together and elevate them on giant wood blocks, to make a high counter for tying the quilts. A couple gals bring their personal sewing machines, which are set at various tables about the room, and boxes of fabric begin to emerge out of storage in the back Sunday school room. It’s an impressive operation.

While most the quilts they make go to Stewpot Ministires or Gateway Rescue, our gals are taking on a special project as the festival season approaches: they are making small Christmas quilts for children in the hospital. If you would like to help sew, tie knots, or simply drink coffee and cheer them on, their next quilting days are October 26 and 27, from 9am-noonish. The more, the merrier!

Thank you to these ladies for the love of Christ that they share through their quilting! ■



new ACOLYTES

at christ lutheran

As they grow up in the Faith, our children learn Bible stories, memorize Scripture, and are immersed in the divine liturgy of the church—certainly, this is a marvelous foundation in their baptismal life!

But when they near formal catechesis, looking toward being confirmed and receiving the Lord's Supper, they have the opportunity to participate in the life of the church in a whole new way: they become acolytes. This a beautiful and grave duty, to be the bearer of light in the house of the Lord. It demands...

Practice: Pastor teaches the acolytes how to robe, when to light their torch, the order in which to light the candles, and what liturgical cues to observe for the execution of their duties. They practice with him before they serve in the Divine Service.

Preparation: The acolytes vest with Pastor and the elder before the service, as well as pray with them before their entrance into the sanctuary.

Focus: While all our children participate in the service (occasionally with much wailing and gnashing of teeth!), the acolyte must follow the liturgy at a new level, to know when his duties are required and to execute them with reverence. (This is especially so on feast days, with Gospel processions to boot!).

It is with great joy that we welcome two catechumens into our number of acolytes: Nathan and William Hansford! As they continue learning the Faith, we pray God's richest blessings on their study and service in the church. ■





Gula.

G

Gluttony

—*and other evils*—

Pastor Fields

In the last newsletter, we discussed the Queen of Sins: Pride. This is the sin of believing that we are more than we are, that we are superior to everything, including God. That we will not be under to the rule of anyone; not even the Holy Trinity.

But when we are freed from our service to God, are we truly emancipated, or do we merely become the slave of something else, and more importantly, something less than the Divine Majesty?

All sin is merely servitude to a weaker master. It is to give up the glory of being made in the image of God in order to become the thrall of the image of dust. For this reason, when Adam sinned, the Lord spoke to him, saying, ‘dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.’

This is made most clear in what has traditionally been listed as the first ‘deadly sin’: Gluttony.

In our time, we think of gluttony as meaning over-indulgence in food. A glutton is one who eats too much, or too often, or too early, or eats too much of something unhealthy.

But this is not what the Fathers meant when they spoke of gluttony. What they meant was slavery to our appetites for pleasure, whether that be food or money or possessions. To believe that such things as cars or nice houses or clean backyard swimming pools would bring us happiness; this is gluttony.

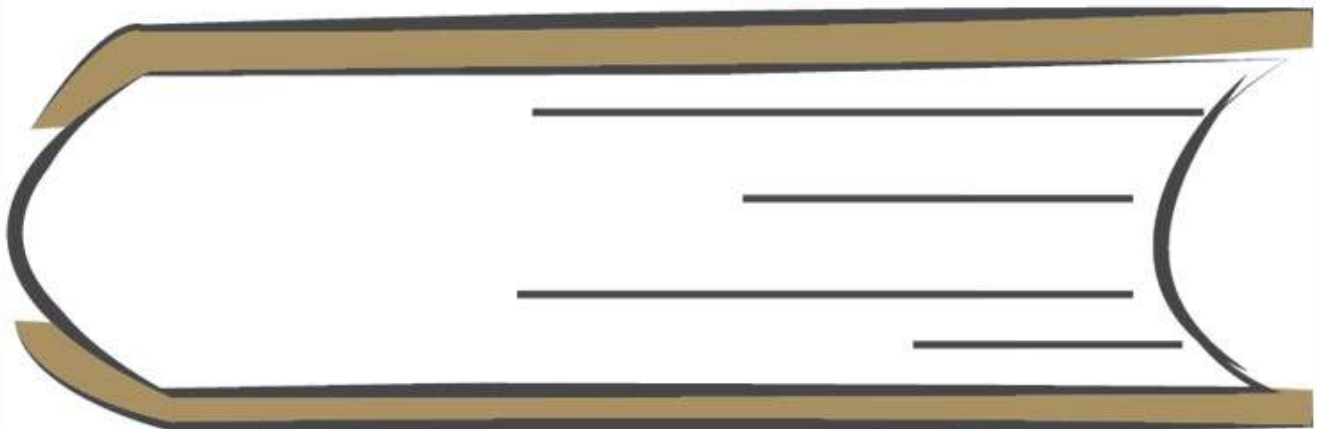
The Bible is a strange book, in that it is all for us Christians enjoying any and all created goods, but at the same time it does not want us to desire them. Nowhere in the Bible is fine food or wealth or good fortune condemned, but the love of them is, as it is written: the love of money is the root of all evil. It is not money that is evil, but the love of it.

To love, to depend on, to trust in worldly pleasures for one’s joy is sin, but to simply enjoy worldly pleasures is not simply ‘not sin,’ but it is rest; it is, to use the Biblical term, a ‘Sabbath.’ For God Himself enjoyed all He created on the seventh day, for it was very good.

For this reason, the Christian smiles at every beautiful thing in creation; but to trust in such things for our satisfaction is sin. It is gluttony. A truly deadly sin. ■

At Kids

Christ Lutheran
Vacation Bible School





It may have been summer vacation, but our kids were busy learning the three R's at the Christ Lutheran schoolhouse! The R's taught at *this* school were Rebellion, Rescue, and Renuion—a three-day summary of man's past, present, and future with God. The lessons marched through our Fall in Genesis 3, Jesus' sacrifice for us and the Supper we still share (Luke 22), and the eternal day of Revelation 21-22.



Through games, songs, crafts, and catechism, the children reviewed Bible stories and memorized commandments. Each schoolday ended with vespers in the sanctuary, where parents and kids alike heard God's Word and joined in prayer.



Our first teacher, Mrs. Yenish, opened each day with a Bible story and helped her students memorize Scripture through song.

Good students at *this* school are rewarded with... cupcakes! Parker agrees that good grades never tasted so good.

Hazel gets an A+ for art! She takes her crafts *very* seriously.



We are exceedingly grateful for Carol Yenish, who wrote this year's VBS program! Thanks also to Lesley Dickens, who coordinated VBS. Finally, thank you to *everyone* who in many and various ways volunteered and contributed to this wonderful week!





The older kids did a wonderful job stepping in and helping to “tutor” the younger kids. Thanks for your leadership!



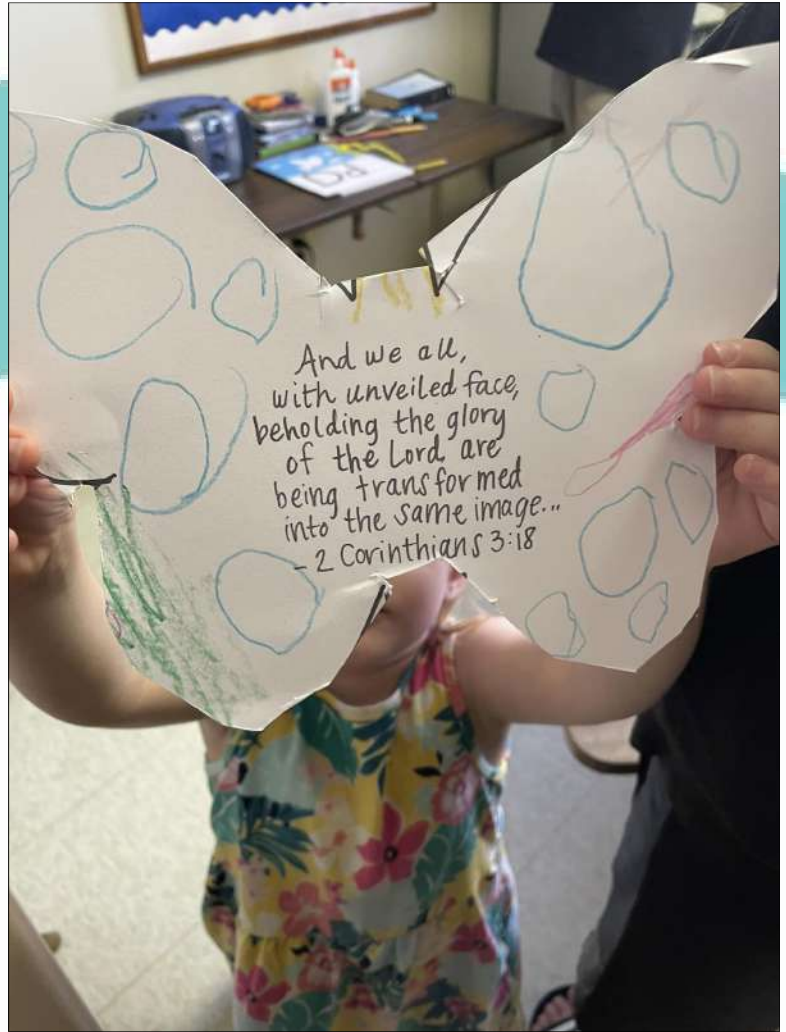
Savanah was a very patient and tidy student. No small feat where paint is involved!

PE and pinatas! The candy-filled apple may have exhausted the younger students, but it was no match for an upperclassman. Thanks, William!



Pastor Fields catechized the students, reviewing commandments are digging deeper into their meaning.





Carolyn proudly displays her colorful butterfly, which reminded us of the memory verse for the day.



Studious students, studying!

Lili tackles her homework with great care.



A precocious little student is ready to soak it all in! Not to mention, Asher gets extra credit for sheer cuteness.



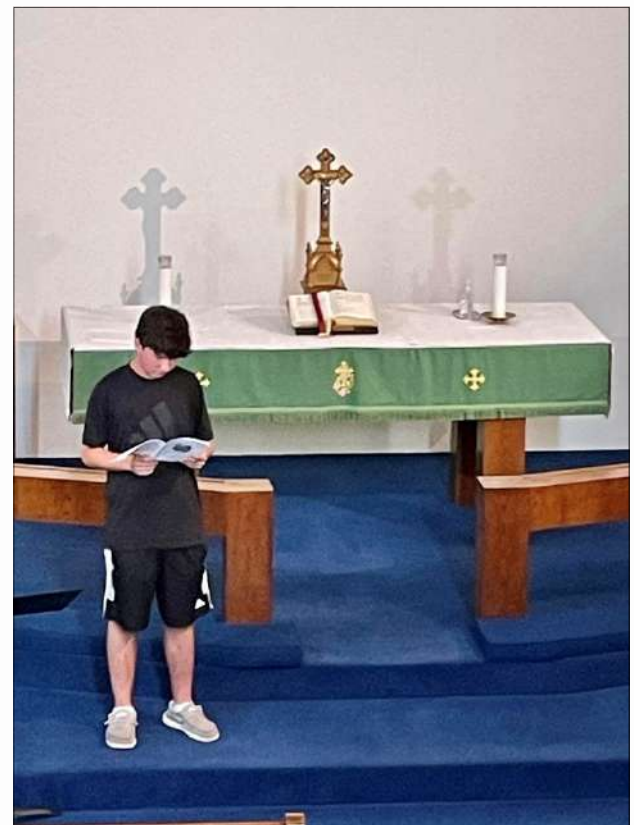
Because the last day of school *always* needs water fun!



The cafeteria had some excellent cooks...



Westin studies hard as his tutor looks over his work.



Some of our young men participated in the days' closing liturgy as lectors.■

The Decalogue

the path of life

Pastor Fields

Thou Shalt Not Take the Lord's Name in Vain

The First commandment compels us not to trust in the gods of this world, all those things in creation that seem to have power over us, whether we like it or not; things such as money, and war, and our fleshly desires. These are the gods of our imagination, and, before all else, the Lord exorcises these idols from our hearts. For this reason, when we are baptized, the pastor commands, 'Depart thou unclean spirit, and make way for the Holy Spirit.'

Now that the Lord has rightly demanded that we cast away all the false deities of our heathen hearts, He now asks us to call upon Him alone, and to call upon Him rightly.

Though we call this the Second Commandment, it is not so much a command as an invitation; an invitation to turn away from the idols of death, of the desires that are passing, and to turn to the God who is life, who is eternity itself.

To say that we are not to take the Lord's name in vain implies that we are to take the Lord's name not in vain. That is, we are to call upon it in every time of need, to pray, praise, and give thanks. His name is to ever be on our tongues, in every joyous occasion, in all times of suffering, in the midst of our gratitude, for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

Prayer is to be our constant habit, our armor in times of strife, our wine in times of joy.

But with this said, what is it to take the Lord's name in vain?

It is not what most think, to say phrases such as 'Oh my (...)' or to say the name of the Christ when one hits one's hand with a hammer while trying to hang a picture in the living room.

To take the Lord's name in vain is to put words into God's mouth, words that He has never given us. It is to make our sinful thoughts, and pretend they are God's thoughts, and so attempt to drag the authority of the Almighty into the poverty of our miserable lusts.

When a politician says that God would want us to vote for such and such a policy, this is taking the Lord's name in vain. When a preacher says that God demands we give money to such and such a program, this is taking the Lord's name in vain. When a demanding spouse commands that God wants the other to fulfill such and such a duty, this is taking the Lord's name in vain. For God has commanded what He has commanded, and nothing else. All who put new commands in His mouth are not merely wrong, they are false prophets, and the millstone awaits to be bound around their neck.

God has given us every divine good by the Gospel of Christ, and every earthly pleasure in His creation. Let us therefore give thanks, now and forevermore. But may we be guarded against making our God into a Santa Claus that merely exists to fulfill our wants; for God has no interest in fulfilling our wants. He has an interest only in glorifying His image. His image, which is you, and me. ■



church Council

As we do every May, the congregation met in our semi-annual voters assembly to elect the council members for the year. While the pastor is the spiritual head of the congregation, overseeing all things theological, the council cares for the physical realities of the church—from her finances or upkeep of the property, to her social events or VBS.

Installed during the Divine Service on June 11th, our new council is already hard at work. We are grateful for their faithfulness to the duties entrusted to them, and we shall continue to pray for them as they serve Christ and His Church in our congregation! ■

President: Mark Ochs
Vice President: John Rudsenske
Treasurer: Rush Agent
Secretary: Glen Hansford
Financial Secretary: Anita Martin
Stewardship Chair: Eddie Gallarno
Education Chair: Alaena Ramsey
Property Chair: David Miller
Social Ministry Chair: Mary Atchley
Evangelism Chair: Krista Hansford
Elders Chair: Eric Held

COME UNTO ME, ALL YE
THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY
LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE
YOU REST. Matthew 11:28

PHOTO
511
555
609 680
609 439



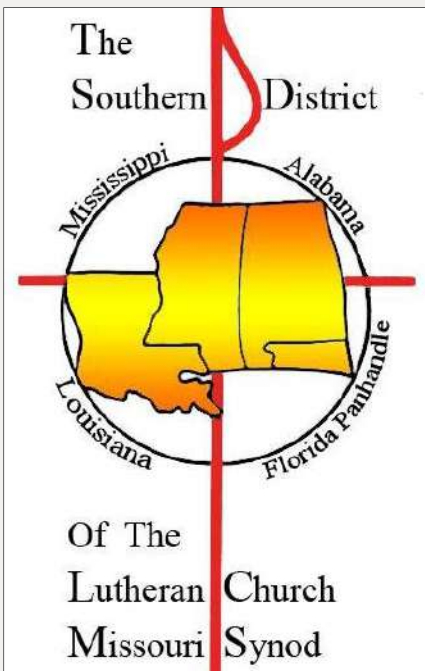
A Century of Blessings

Nancy Teal



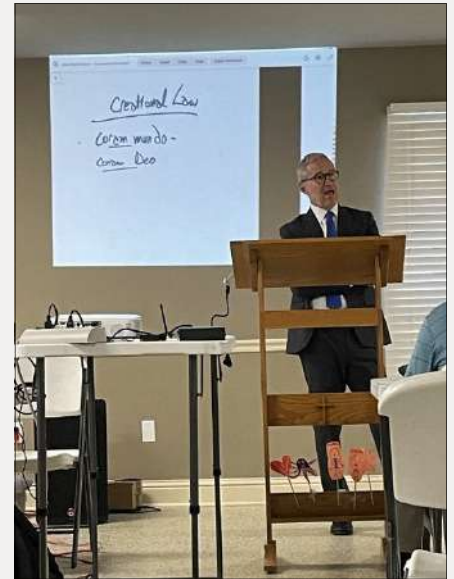
On September 26th, a group of our members traveled to West Point to visit Louise Meisenhoelder. Louise transferred to Christ Lutheran from Our Redeemer in Clinton soon after our congregation was formed. She worked with an insurance agency and was involved with a Women's Business Association. At church, Louise sang in the choir, belonged to LWML, and was one of the initial quilters. After she retired from work, she made the decision to move back to West Point where she had grown up and where she had extended family. She then transferred her membership to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Columbus where she still attends with the help of some other members there. She uses a walker, but is pretty amazing for her age.

We learned from Michelle and David Miller, who transferred here from Our Savior Lutheran, that Louise will be celebrating her 100th birthday on December 11, 2023!!! A party is being planned, but we decided to visit with her a little earlier. We celebrated with a lunch at the Ritz in West Point. ■



Professional Church Worker Conference

The Southern District of the LCMS holds an annual conference for all her clergy and diaconate. A prolonged hiatus due to the pandemic finally ended this year, as we resumed the conference this October for the first time since 2019. The conference is intended as a combination of continuing education with the ‘mutual encouragement of the brethren.’



This year’s focus was Mark 6:46: “After bidding them farewell, He went up on a mountain to pray.” The highlight was a day of lectures by Dr. Joel Biermann, a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, who spoke on “Work, Leisure, and Sabbath.” He looked to Genesis and the pattern of God’s own

work and rest as both a central theme in Scripture and a model for our lives as His image.

Pastor Fields and Sister Sara were able to attend, being filled not only with learning and encouragement, but also with New Orleans’ delicious gumbo! ■



Ladies Night Out



Our ladies had a tasty night out at Georgia Blues in September! The only thing better than the food, was, of course, the fellowship!

If you would like to “host” Ladies’ Night Out (i.e., pick a restaurant and book a reservation), sign up in the Fellowship Hall! All [ladies] are welcome to join us! ■

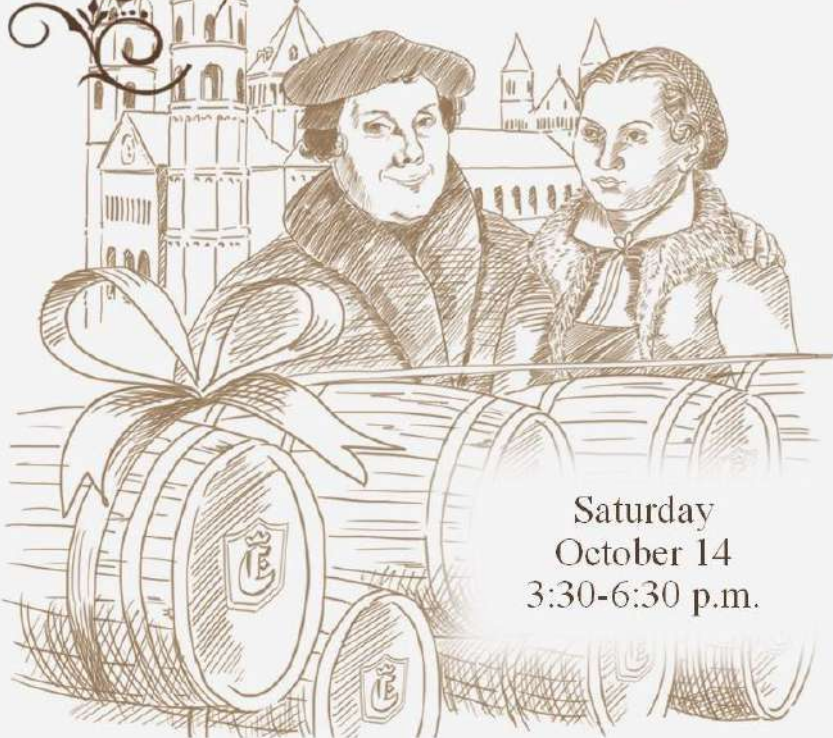


THIS MONTH

At Christ Lutheran

Christ Lutheran

Oktoberfest



Saturday
October 14
3:30-6:30 p.m.



THE FEAST OF THE REFORMATION

+ October 29 +

Fall LifeLight Minor Prophets

Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.



join us for
Reformation & All Saints
choir

thursdays @ 7pm

JOIN US FOR
BIBLE STUDY

bible & breaky | fridays @ 6:30 a.m.

Issues, Etc.

Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio
www.issuesetc.org

Calling All Quilters!
 (And Non-Quilters, too!)

We will be quilting on
Thursday, October 26
Friday, October 27
at 9:00 a.m.

Come for a relaxed morning
 of fellowship!

Saints' Days in October

- 4 St. Francis of Assisi, Confessor
- 7 St. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor
- 9 St. Abraham, Patriarch
- 11 St. Philip the Deacon
- 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr
- 18 St. Luke, Evangelist
- 23 St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus & Martyr
- 24 St. Raphael, Archangel
- 25 Sts. Dorcas, Lydia, & Phoebe, Faithful Women
- 26 Sts. Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, & Paul Gerhardt, Hymnwriters
- 28 Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles
- 31 Feast of the Reformation

Artwork in This Issue:

Cover: *Deutsch Catechismus*, 1529.

Page 4: *Christ in Glory between the Angels and Archangels*, Guido Reni, 1621.

Page 10: *Gluttony*, Jacques Callot, c. 1621.

Page 18: *Moses Showing the Ten Commandments*, Gustave Dore, 1865.

C + MMUNIO

Various & Sundry
 — Topics for Today —
 October 29
 5:00 p.m.



24th Annual Conference
Good Shepherd Institute
 The Living Tradition

November 5-7, 2023

ACTSFW
 CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

*... get your free
 Reformation activities*

Concordia
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Luther's Seal
 Patterns

Children can create their
 very own Luther's Seal.

Luther's Seal



Mystery Word
 Challenge

Solve the Reformation
 Mystery Word.

Reformation Activity



Catechism
 Memory Cards

Learn about Luther's
 Small Catechism.

Catechism Cards




THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS
 + November 5 +

YOUR MOMMA IS SO LUTHERAN

THEY CALL HER 'A MIGHTY FORTRESS'

October 2023

PRAYER FAMILIES and BIRTHDAYS	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Andy Evers 2—William Held	PENTECOST XVIII 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	2	3	4 <i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>	5 7:00 p.m. Choir	6	7 <i>St. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg</i>
Micah Everson 8—Francis Dillon 14—Daryl Smith	PENTECOST XIX 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	9 <i>St. Abraham</i>	10 6:15 p.m. Council Mtg.	11 9:30 a.m. Lifelight <i>St. Philip</i>	12 7:00 p.m. Choir	13 6:30 a.m. Bible Study	14 3:30 p.m. Oktoberfest
Fields Family 15—Chuck Haynes 15—Asher Gallarno 16—Krista Hansford	PENTECOST XX 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	16	17 <i>St. Ignatius of Antioch</i> 5:00 p.m. Altar Guild	18 9:30 a.m. Lifelight <i>St. Luke</i>	19 7:00 p.m. Choir	20 6:30 a.m. Bible Study	21
Gallarno Family 26—Seraphine Fields 27—Christina Gallarno 27—Glen Hansford	PENTECOST XXI 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service	23 <i>St. James of Jerusalem</i>	24 <i>St. Raphael</i>	25 9:30 a.m. Lifelight 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Night Out <i>Sts. Dorcas, Lydia, & Phoebe</i>	26 9:00 a.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Choir <i>Sts. Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heerman, & Paul Gerhardt</i>	27 6:30 a.m. Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Quilting	28 <i>Sts. Simon & Jude</i>
Barbara Glenn	FEAST OF THE REFORMATION (OBSERVED) 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Divine Service 11:30 a.m. Voters Meeting 5:00 p.m. Communion	30	31  REFORMATION	Serving this month: Elder—Keith Martin Ushers—Bruce Bodkin, Mark Ochs			