

ST. PETER COMMUNICATOR

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October 2024

From the desk of Pastor Peterson

Grace, mercy, and God's peace to each and every one of you from our risen, victorious, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Since my last newsletter, the seasons are beginning to change, and fall is just around the corner. Fall means that very soon the leaves will turn color and fall, the chill of winter is just around the corner. Did you know that Christmas is less than 3 months away? My dad used to tell me that the older you get the faster time seems to go, as usual he was right.

Time is running out for this world, and each minute, hour, day, month, year, we get closer to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The seasons are changing so to speak, Scripture tells us that in the end times there will be wars and rumors of wars. Jesus tells us in **Matthew 24:6-13** ⁶ **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.** ⁷ **For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.** ⁸ **All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.** ⁹ **"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.** ¹⁰ **And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.** ¹¹ **And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.** ¹² **And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.** ¹³ **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.** Jesus also tells us of His second coming in **Luke 21:25-28** ²⁵ **"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,** ²⁶ **people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** ²⁷ **And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** ²⁸ **Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."**

We are not sure when that time will come, but God's Word says that Jesus will come, much like a thief in the night. The phrase "like a thief in the night" appears in the Bible in two verses. The first is **1 Thessalonians 5:2**, which says **"For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."** The second is **2 Peter 3:10**, which says **"But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid bare."** In Matthew 24, verses 35-39, Jesus tells the disciples that the end of the world will come, and the times will be just like in the days of Noah. Time will run out and Jesus will come. We just don't know when, but we must be ready. I was reminded of the suddenness of an event when my weather radio went off on Tuesday. It was just a test, but a reminder that it would notify me of a weather emergency.

When the seasons change, we are prepared with the appropriate clothing. Summer wear of shorts and t-shirts are replaced with jackets and long pants. As winter approaches and the temperature drop, the snow flies, we breakout the winter wear. Then spring is around the corner and the cycle begins again. For us as Christians, though we have our baptism and the faith that God gives to us to face these times that we are in. So, take heart, the day of our redemption draws near every day. Be of good cheer and remember that God really, really, really does love you!!! Amen



Pastor Peterson



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Nicole Wittman to Speak at LWML Zone 10 Fall Rally October 5 at Trinity Rantoul:

We are pleased to announce that the speaker for our Fall Rally will be Nicole Wittmann. She will be sharing information about her mission trip this past summer. Preceding Nicole's presentation, there will be a buffet breakfast starting at 8:15. Registration will also start at 8:15. Reservations are not required. Please consider attending to hear Nicole share her mission experiences. All women of the LCMS are members and are urged to attend.

Fellowship Sunday:

On October 13, our usual Fellowship Sunday, we will celebrate LWML Sunday. We will also be having the annual LWML Worship Service on that day. This special service is written by one of our Synod leaders especially to acknowledge the mission of the ladies of the LCMS.

As a part of our fellowship, we will also acknowledge recent new members of our congregation and celebrate Pastor Awareness Month.

We invite all members of the congregation and guests to join us as we recognize these events and to spend some time visiting with each other.

Gifts from the Heart:

We have a good start on our gathering of warm winter clothing items for the Free at Last ministry in Milwaukee. As you may recall, these items are for the recently released prison inmates in Milwaukee being served by Mission of Christ LCMS church and the Free at Last program. Any warm winter wear is welcome, either new or gently used. The greatest need is for items for

men, especially socks, gloves and hats. Thanks for sharing God's blessings with His children as they begin to readjust to life outside of prison walls.

Monthly Meeting and Bible Study:

Our meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8, at 1:00. Bring your Fall Quarterly and your Bible. Just a reminder that all women are members.



Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeartRadio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish.



Walking away: Concordia University Texas holds to ‘ill-advised course’

By Cheryl Magness

June 8, 2023



In 2022, the Concordia University Texas (CTX), Austin, Texas, Board of Regents (BOR) amended CTX’s governance documents, changing, among other things, the manner by which CTX regents are elected and removing any reference in CTX’s governance documents to following the bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). This act of changing the CTX governance documents was done without LCMS approval and in opposition to LCMS bylaws, and the Synod has condemned it. The series of events leading to this moment is long and complex. A chronology that is not exhaustive but is intended to give a brief but faithful overview follows.

A faithful beginning

CTX, like all LCMS schools, was formed to train young people in the faith. Originally open only to males, with the purpose of preparing them to serve as LCMS pastors and teachers, CTX began almost 100 years ago under the name Lutheran Concordia College of Texas.

According to “[A Cloud of Witnesses](#),” a 1986 documentary produced by the college in observance of its 60th anniversary, CTX traces its roots to 1894, when a group of Lutherans met in Giddings, Texas, to plan for a Lutheran college.

That plan, and another after it, didn’t succeed. But in 1923, the Synod resolved in convention “to found a high school in Texas.” It appropriated “up to \$50,000 for this purpose,” with the LCMS Texas District pledging \$30,000. Because of a drought, however, the district was unable to provide the funds, and the Synod Board of Directors supplied the needed funding.

Three years later, on Oct. 26, 1926, Lutheran Concordia College of Texas opened north of the University of Texas — which was then just inside the city limits of Austin — as a residential high school for boys. The first class had 26 students, some German-speaking and some English-speaking.

In 1951, the school added a junior college curriculum; in 1955, it welcomed women for the first time. In 1965, the college was renamed Concordia Lutheran College, Austin, Texas. By 1970, the high school had been discontinued, and in 1980, Concordia Lutheran College became a four-year institution. In 1995, the name was changed to Concordia University at Austin. Finally, in 2007, the name was changed to Concordia University Texas, and in 2008 the campus moved from its location in what had become near-downtown Austin to a location northwest of the city.

Mounting pressures

For many years after it became a four-year college, CTX enjoyed steady growth, becoming particularly well known for its nursing and education programs. The growth, however, was not without difficulty, and from time to time, CTX relied upon the Synod for grants, subsidies, lines of credit, backing of debts and promises of ongoing support. In recent years, it — like most institutions of higher education — has faced increasing enrollment and funding challenges, along with pressures from secular forces such as government and the prevailing culture.

But Concordia University System (CUS) President Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe said that those external challenges are accompanied by internal ones:

“For 96 years, Missouri Synod Lutherans have sent their children and their gifts to Concordia, Texas.

Concordia has been a blessing to the church, and the church has been a blessing to Concordia.

“But in recent years, we have seen at Concordia an ongoing lack of catechesis in Lutheran doctrine and practice, worship practice that is not Lutheran, a program of diversity and equity that takes precedence over the Gospel and the clear teaching of Scripture, and the skirting of Synod bylaws and governance in the hiring of staff.

“This is of grave concern to the church. The answer to outside pressures is not to weaken our confessional subscription but to strengthen it; not to run away from the truth but to run toward it. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod gave birth to Concordia University Texas. Concordia owes fidelity to her mother, the church; to the church’s confession; and to the church’s practice.”

Concordia moves to separate: A timeline

In 2019, the Synod in convention adopted Resolution 7-03, calling for a proposal for a new governance plan for the CUS, one that would “strengthen all CUS institutions’ connection to the Synod” and “strengthen [their] confessional Lutheran identity.” In 2020 and 2021, a variety of stakeholders were involved in reviewing and commenting on draft proposals of the plan. During this time, the CTX BOR expressed its concern to the 7-03 committee that the proposed governance plan would lead to CTX being disaffiliated without its consent, but this was never the intent of the plan. Any disaffiliation under the draft plan would result only if there were persistent ecclesiastical unfaithfulness and after extensive conversation. The CTX president and BOR chair also had been informed regularly of the 7-03 committee’s work and the rationale of the proposed changes and had provided input, which was considered by the committee.

On Feb. 15, 2022, the LCMS BOD received a letter from CTX President Don Christian and CTX BOR Chairman Christopher Bannwolf stating that the CTX BOR had, at its Dec. 3, 2021, meeting, unanimously resolved to seek to become the sole governing board of CTX.

On April 20–22, 2022, a Synod team led by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison visited CTX. A summary of the visit is available on Pages

173–78 of the [2023 Convention Workbook](#). As explained by Harrison in his March 31, 2022, letter to Christian announcing the visit, he undertook the visit “because of concerns addressed to me by lay and clergy members of the Synod, CUS representatives, current and former faculty, and students of CTX. CTX has been established by the congregations of the Synod, and its Board of Regents and administration are responsible to them for its faithful operation. The congregations allow the school great freedom in accomplishing its mission, but that mission is defined ‘within the broad assignment of the Synod’ (Bylaw 3.10.6.1). Concordia, as an ‘agency’ of the Synod, has a sacred responsibility to operate in accord with the bounds of the confession of the Synod (‘the written Word of God as the only rule and norm of faith and practice,’ and in accordance with the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church), as expressed in Article II of our Constitution. The President of Synod ‘has the supervision regarding the doctrine and administration of ... all such as are employed by the Synod’ (Article XI B 1 b). ‘It is the President’s duty to see to it that all the aforementioned are acting according with the Synod’s Constitution, to admonish all who in any way depart from it, and, if such admonition is not heeded, to report such cases to the Synod’ (Article XI B 2).”

On April 21, 2022, CTX President Christian sent a letter to LCMS BOD Chairman Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm requesting a process for CTX’s separation from the Synod. In reply, Kumm advised CTX that the university should, pursuant to Synod bylaws and in good order, work with the CUS on its separation proposal since the CUS is responsible for its ecclesiastical oversight. Kumm referenced Bylaw 3.6.6.4(i), which provided the mechanism under the bylaws for CTX to pursue a proposed separation, in his letter to CTX.

On July 19, 2022, CTX sent the CUS a “draft” separation proposal that referenced other documents to come.

On Aug. 1, 2022, Christian asked the CUS for initial feedback on the separation proposal.

On Aug. 6, 2022, Wenthe responded to Christian that it was not possible for the CUS to evaluate the proposal without all of the documents that were

referenced in the proposal or were needed to evaluate the proposal.

On Sept. 17, 2022, CTX sent additional documents, but the proposal was still incomplete and did not provide any documents that the proposal referenced.

On Nov. 8, 2022, the CTX BOR voted to change its bylaws so that it could file paperwork with the State of Texas amending CTX's Certificate of Formation with respect to its purpose and the operation of its BOR. It is the Synod's understanding that as a precipitating cause of this action taken by the CTX BOR, CTX leadership advised the CTX BOR that the CUS might remove the CTX president or close or consolidate the institution and that the action was necessary to prevent that and to preserve the institution. (The BOD has since clarified that the only proposal under consideration was the separation proposal from CTX.) Of note, the CTX filing with the Texas Secretary of State includes language stating that "the corporation [CTX] is dedicated to the support and maintenance of an educational institution of higher learning that is **aligned with, but not subject to the authority of or governance by, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**" (emphasis added) and that "**All determinations regarding the university's alignment with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, including but not limited to, the university's subscription and adherence to the Confession of the LCMS** as currently outlined in Article II of the LCMS Constitution, and qualifications for board members and the presidency, **will be subject to and determined by the sole and exclusive discretion of the [CTX] Board of Regents**" (emphasis added). This action officially made the CTX situation a BOD matter because the governance of the universities of the Synod involves the property and business affairs of the Synod, which fall under the authority of the BOD according to Constitution Article XI E.

Following the Nov. 8 CTX meeting, two CTX BOR members resigned.

On Nov. 11, 2022, the LCMS BOD released a statement noting that the CTX action was out of order because it was taken "without either the consent The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Bylaws require of a university of the Concordia University System looking to change its bylaws or the consent they require for a university seeking to separate from the Concordia University System." On Nov. 12, 2022, the CUS sent a letter to CTX condemning its action to separate and asking that it reverse itself.

Following the Nov. 12 letter, members of the LCMS BOD reached out to CTX BOR Chairman Christopher Bannwolf and President Christian to discuss the action taken and set a meeting with the CTX BOR.

On Jan. 12, 2023, President Harrison, Synod Secretary Rev. Dr. John W. Sias and representatives from the CUS and the BOD traveled to Austin and met with the entire CTX BOR on the CTX campus to discuss Harrison's visitation report and the consequences of the governance change — the most consequential being that it placed CTX outside of the Synod — and to urge the BOR to reverse course.

Following the meeting, the BOD submitted a series of questions to the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) concerning the action taken by CTX. As part of the process, CTX received the questions and had the opportunity to provide input to the CCM.

On Feb. 12, 2023, the BOR passed a resolution to "seek more information and counsel from the LCMS Board," stating that "the CTX Board of Regents has a strong desire to be a part of the Synod."

On March 10, 2023, a five-member delegation of the CTX BOR traveled to St. Louis to meet with representatives of the LCMS BOD, presenting a list of questions for discussion. The meeting was requested by CTX. At the meeting, CTX asked for assurances from the BOD — specifically, that the BOD would not remove Christian (something it has no authority, under LCMS bylaws, to do) and that the BOD would not seek to close or consolidate CTX.

On March 30, 2023, in response to questions submitted by the BOD, the CCM ruled, among other things, that an agency of the Synod does not have the authority, under the Synod Constitution and Bylaws, unilaterally to separate from the

Synod or to change its governance documents without prior approval. The CCM opinion also found that each regent individually — not just the Board of Regents as a whole — also has a fiduciary duty to the Synod. The fiduciary duties regents owe the Synod are described specifically in the Synod bylaws. They involve the “comprehensive stewardship of the institution in the ecclesial interest of the Synod, which has put them in place to govern. Governing the institution as a ‘fiduciary’ or ‘agent of the [ecclesiastical] Synod, in which ownership is primarily vested’ (Bylaw 3.10.6.4 [i][1]) and, indeed, as a ‘governing board of the Synod’ (Bylaw 3.2.2), they owe duties of ‘good faith, loyalty, due care, and disclosure’ and a ‘high standard of care’ to maintain the institution in faithfulness to the Synod’s confession (Const. Art. II); in fruitfulness with regard to the accomplishment of the Synod’s objectives (Const. Art. III and relevant Bylaws, resolutions, and policies, as such pertain to the operation of a Synod university); and consistent in every respect with the governance model Synod has set forth to assure the institution operates in its ecclesial interests” (CCM Opinion 23-3006).

On April 4, 2023, the CTX BOR, by a vote of 10 in favor, 5 against and 1 abstention, reaffirmed its Nov. 8, 2022, action to separate from the LCMS. Since that time, two more CTX BOR members have resigned. LCMS BOD member Andrew Grams said, “Without warning and without provocation, the CTX BOR voted to separate the university from the Synod, taking for the BOR an inheritance that belongs to the congregations of the Synod. They then asked the BOD to enter into conversation with them about the governance issues. The BOD did that on conference calls and in face-to-face meetings. We answered all their questions. We provided them with the specific assurances requested in the March 10 meeting. Yet they still voted, on April 4, 2023, to change their bylaws, the practical effect of which was to separate from Synod, confirming the action they took in November. While the November action could have been excused as a mistake or an action based on incomplete information, the April action was taken with full knowledge of the consequences of their actions.”

At its April 2023 meeting, the LCMS Council of Presidents (COP) resolved to commend the Synod president, LCMS Texas District President Rev. Michael Newman and the LCMS BOD “in the work that they are already doing with the Concordia Texas Board of Regents.” On May 18, Newman told Reporter via email that he supported the COP resolution and is “thankful for the prayers and support of colleagues.”

On May 9, 2023, the BOD sent a letter to the CTX BOR demanding that the BOR make an accounting to the Synod for its actions and demanded certain documents.

On May 17, 2023, CTX BOR Chairman Bannwolf responded, declining to make the accounting or provide the requested documents and stating, “A consequence of the governance action taken is that CTX is no longer subject to the Synod’s Bylaws; therefore, demands made to CTX based on the Synod’s Bylaws are hereby respectfully declined.”

‘Spirit of love’

As the Synod prepares for the 68th Regular Convention of the LCMS this summer, questions loom about the future of CTX. The convention will also take up the CUS governance proposal. Read more about that proposal at lcms.org/cus-future.

Along with Wenthe, CUS BOD Chairman Dr. Gerhard H. Munding Jr. has been in regular communication with CTX.

“The presidents of the CUS and the CUS administration have a long history of ongoing retreats, discussions and meetings,” Munding said. “President Christian was the CUS presidents’ representative to the CUS for several years. We have had monthly Zoom meetings — for over five years — with all the presidents and CUS administration and advisory panel. We regularly discussed the 7-03 proposal. The 7-03 committee has four representatives from the CUS and three CUS presidents on it.”

Munding continued:

“At our meeting on Oct. 5, 2022, President Christian was asked by all the other current CUS presidents not to cause or support a vote, at the next meeting of the CTX BOR, to leave the Synod. Unfortunately, they are holding to their ill-advised

course, and the question remains: How can a term-limited board, elected through a Synod process, and a university president serving at the behest of the Synod, appoint themselves the ‘sole’ determiners of the Synod’s doctrine and practice on the CTX campus? We asked that question at our joint meeting with Concordia on Jan. 12 and were hopeful that our brothers would come to see the illogical nature of their action.

“We continue to plead that they reconsider. Error is not corrected by any negotiation that allows the error to remain. Rather, it is corrected when the error is confessed and repented of. We pray that such action from the CTX president and board will be quickly forthcoming.”

LCMS BOD member Rev. Josemon Hoem, a CTX alum, was part of the April 2022 visitation team.

“The Synod visitation team exhibited abiding patience, kindness and charity,” said Hoem. “We repeatedly asked, ‘How can the Synod help you? How can we serve you?’ But we were consistently met with resistance and suspicion.”

BOD member Christian Preus drew attention to the vagueness of the word “align.”

“The CTX proposal says that they wish to separate from the Synod while remaining ‘aligned’ with the Synod,” Preus said. “‘Alignment’ is not the same thing as ‘walking together’ — which is what ‘Synod’ means. The Synod ‘aligns’ with many other groups outside the Synod on individual issues. But we aren’t in fellowship with them. We don’t share the same confession. A desire to leave the Synod while remaining ‘aligned’ with the Synod suggests a loose affiliation that one can selectively ignore, not a churchly walking together.”

Preus added, “Everyone involved in this process — from the CUS to the COP to the Office of the President to the BOD — has carefully stayed in their own lane and proceeded in good order, following our Constitution and Bylaws. The only entity that has not done so is Concordia.”

When asked to comment, in light of CTX’s action to operate outside Synod bylaws, on the current status of rostered CTX workers, Texas District President Newman said, “With Concordia

University Texas becoming self-governing and no longer part of the Concordia University System, it no longer has the authority to call church workers. The rostered church workers remain workers in good standing on the LCMS roster but must move to candidate or emeritus status in order not to be dropped from the roster of the Synod.”

Wenthe said that the Synod’s deepest concern is for Concordia itself.

“It was in a spirit of love that we went to Austin in January of this year. We went because we feared that our dear Concordia University Texas was on the verge of making a terrible mistake. In fact, they have already made a serious mistake in seeking a manner of governance that is at odds with our Synod structure.

“The proposal for self-governance will only further weaken an already compromised fidelity to the doctrine and practice of the LCMS. A self-perpetuating board with a president who has unbridled authority is in direct opposition to what Concordia’s founders desired and what the last three national LCMS conventions have advocated and supported.

“The BOD and CUS have shown ample grace, kindly asking, on numerous occasions, for Concordia’s Board of Regents to come back and resume walking together with the Synod. We sincerely hope and pray that the Board of Regents will, even now, willingly reverse their stated course and that CTX will remain an important member of the Concordia University System.”

CUS Board of Directors sends letter to CTX president

THE LCMS

September 20, 2024

Concordia University System Board of Directors responds to actions taken by Concordia University Texas

Meeting in regular session at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., on Sept. 19, 2024, the Concordia University System (CUS) Board of Directors unanimously resolved to deliver a letter to the leadership of Concordia University Texas

(CTX), Austin, Texas. The letter, addressed to CTX President Don Christian, reads as follows:

The word “concordia” describes a state of unity. Its prominent position in the title of *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, published in 1580, proclaims a genuine unity of many churches bound together by a shared confession of the true faith. That is true “concordia.” “Concordia” is achieved when the many are made one by a confession made evident in proclamation and corresponding practice.

It is impossible to be “Concordia” and at the same time reject the unity that the name is meant to proclaim. An institution that abandons its founding church and the unity of that church cannot be “Concordia.” The disruptive, illegal attempts of Concordia University Texas (CTX), Austin, Texas, to separate itself from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) — a relationship established by mutual covenant duly defined in the Synod’s Constitution and Bylaws — and from the Synod’s component institutions, demonstrate that CTX uses the name falsely. The CUS Board of Directors condemns the actions of CTX to effect such separation — including the recent appointment of a president using an unauthorized search and approval process by a board of regents itself not legitimately constituted — as divisive, schismatic and un-Christian.

The CUS Board of Directors stands together in unity with our Synod and its Board of Directors, which is to say in true “concordia.” Our Synod spoke clearly in 2023 Resolution 7–03:

Resolved, That the Synod in convention call upon the CTX president, those CTX administrators who have advocated for and supported the purported separation, and the CTX BOR to submit to the governance of the Synod as laid out in the Constitution and Bylaws; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention call upon the CTX president, those CTX administrators who have advocated for and supported the purported separation, and the CTX BOR to repent for having broken the Fourth, Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments, and to apologize publicly for the illegitimate and wrongful purported separation; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President of Synod stand prepared to grant holy absolution to those who repent and want to do better by rescinding their actions resulting in reconciliation and restoration.

This is language affirmed by the entire Synod in convention in August 2023.

The CUS Board of Directors calls on the university in Texas that uses the name “Concordia” to reverse course and undo the damage it has done to itself and the countless faithful individuals and congregations that founded, prayed for, attended and selflessly supported the school over these many years. Jesus prayed: “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:20–21). We say to Concordia University Texas: Be reconciled to the church that mothered, nurtured and sustained you for so many years.

The Concordia University System Board of Directors

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – October 2024

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the

thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB 788*) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship



October

- 6 Brynn DuPrey
- 8 Terry Hackbarth
Dennis DuPrey
- 10 Adam Hernke
Corey Manders
- 12 Oliver Ott
- 13 Silas Ott
- 14 Minda Hernke
Brecken Roehrig
- 18 Nelson Teinert, Jr.
- 20 Emily Gustafson
- 21 Joshua Schaffer
- 24 David Zuelke
- 25 Jeff Voigt
Dan Koffarnus
- 27 Cheri Koffarnus
- 29 Joshua Hein
Justin Hein
- 30 Connie Tennesen
Jerilyn Fochs
- 31 Debbie Brantmeier

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1st Jonathon & Crysta Ladwig
- 10th Mark & Pam Menge
Wes & Amanda Pompa
- 17th Dennis & Grace Roehrig
- 18th Richard & Jennifer Vander Sande
- 22nd Benjamin & Jody Behnke
- 25th David & Debbie Brantmeier
- 26th Harold & Judy Paulson
Dan & Linda Schroeder
- 30th Dan & Connie Diener
- 31st Dan & Cindy Koffarnus

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Cheri Koffarnus, Bonnie Ott, Bonnie Teinert		1 7:00p Bible Study	2 <i>4:15p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	3	4 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	5 LWML Fall Zone Rally @ Trinity, Rantoul
6 20th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School Special Voters Meeting	7	8 1:00p W.I.M. Meeting & Bible Study 7:00p Bible Study	9 <i>4:15p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	10	11 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	12
13 LWML Sunday <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) Fellowship/Sunday School	14 Columbus Day	15 7:00p Bible Study	16 <i>4:15p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	17	18 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	19
20 22th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Green</i> 8:30 Divine Service 9:30 Sunday School	21 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22	23 <i>4:15p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	24	25 <i>10:00 Bible Study @ Terra Verde, Chilton</i>	26
27 Reformation Sunday <i>Red</i> 8:30 Divine Service (NC) 9:30 Sunday School Quarterly Voters Meeting	28	29 7:00p Bible Study	30 <i>4:15p Confirmation Class @ St. Luke</i>	31 Reformation Day Halloween		

Divine Services marked (NC) will not have Holy Communion