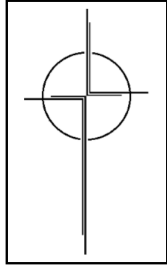


February 2024—
April 2024

Christ the Life
Quarterly Newsletter

Christ the Life Ev. Lutheran Church & School



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A Message From Pastor Bushre

Seeing all kinds of commercials on TV for these silly reality shows, I was reminded of the dumbest one of all: Temptation Island. Temptation Island ran a number years back, and I think it made it all the way up to “Temptation Island 3” before it was cancelled. The concept of the show is that young couples test the strength of their relationship by going off to a tropical island full of single, half-naked coeds, who are trying to break the couples’ apart. I’m sure you can guess the methods used by these coeds to break the couples up. These folks all remain on this island for a number of weeks and see which couples remain faithful to each other, and which crumble under the weight of all this temptation. This could quite possibly be the dumbest thing I’ve ever heard of.

You and I know that mankind is sinful. If you tempt a person enough, they will most likely fall into sin. This is why Scripture tells us to “avoid every kind of evil” (1 Thess. 5:22). You’re asking for your relationship to fail when you go to Temptation Island, or any other

place where temptation is heavy. Couples who have strong relationships don’t show how much they love one another by putting themselves in the midst of temptation and then trying to resist it. Couples who have a strong relationship flee from temptation so they’ll never even be tempted to leave or cheat on their significant other. They avoid situations where they’ll be tempted because they love their spouse so much, they

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**Avoid every
kind of evil.**

1 Thessalonians 5:22



A Message From Pastor Bushre... Continued

(Continued from page 1)



don't even want to chance hurting the relationship. You might say faithfulness comes more from being smart than from being strong.

Jesus Christ died for all the sins we commit when we don't resist temptation, but this is no excuse to sin. Jude verse 4 (the book of Jude has only one chapter) warns against those "who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality." Because of all Christ has done for us, including the salvation we have because of Him, we want to keep His commandments. The sixth commandment tells us we should not commit adultery. This includes not only actions, but also thoughts. As we move into the Lenten season in just a couple weeks, we contemplate our sinfulness and all our Lord Jesus gave up to keep us with him for eternity. We don't

want to sin, and that means we flee from temptation. For those times when temptation cannot be avoided, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to resist it, and when we do sin, we repent and are forgiven because of Christ's sacrificial death for us on the cross. But Christians, who love their Lord and see their spouse as a gift from Him, don't just resist temptation, they avoid temptation.

Blessings to you and yours this Lent and Easter season!

In Christ,

Pastor Bushre



THANK YOU

Your prayers for Betty Palmer, Christine Janssen's mom, have been very much appreciated over the last few months. Photo of Betty from January 13, 2024.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- John 3:16*

Cherish What God Has Given

LCMS Stewardship Ministry - March 2024

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

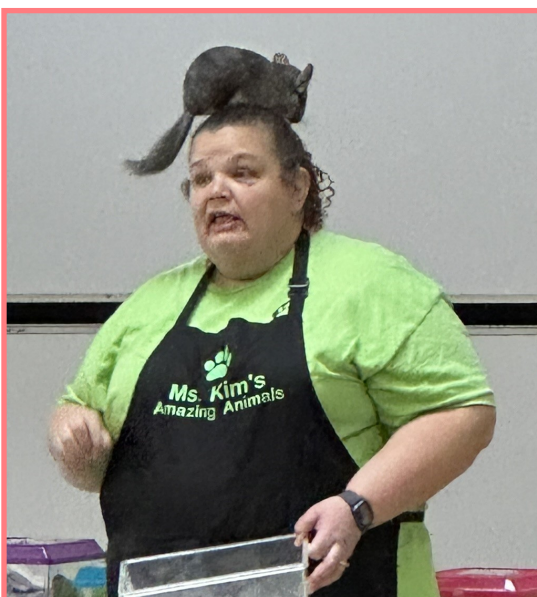
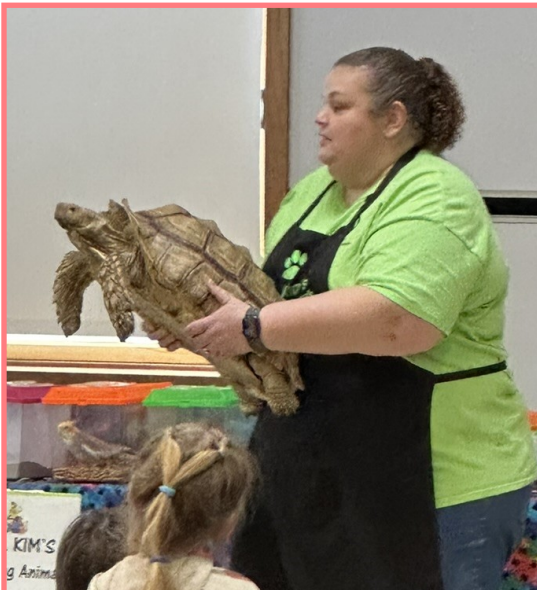
Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.





January 27th was a great day at Christ the Life! We had around 60 families stop in for our Waukesha JanBoree event. Some of the families braved the slushy, melting snow and ventured out on our trails for a fun scavenger hunt. Despite some fallen branches and deep snow, several brave scavengers made it the whole way around the trail loop and found everything on their list! Our “X-Treme Green Snowmen” craft was very well received. It was fun seeing all the unique snowmen the kids designed from recycled materials. The highlight for many was definitely Ms. Kim’s Amazing Animals. Ms. Kim introduced us to her friendly pets including a cowboy bunny, a huge tortoise, Honey the snake, and so many more. We got to pet or hold many of them too! Of course, the day wouldn’t have been complete without a visit from the Waukesha JanBoree mascots themselves!



WAUKESHA JANBOREE



Join us for a WINTER Vacation Bible School!



- When:** Friday, February 23 and Saturday, February 24, 2024
- Time:** Friday, February 23 - 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Saturday, February 24 – 9:00am to 12:00pm
- For:** All children in PK3 through 5th Grade (children must be fully potty-trained, able to take care of themselves independently in the bathroom)

ADVENT FAMILY EVENT

On a Friday evening, the church basement was transformed into stations for the curious minds of preschoolers and their families to explore and interact with the story of Jesus' birth. What would it have been like in Bethlehem when He was born? They signed their names on a scroll as they imagined the census being taken which caused the long travel that must've wearied pregnant Mary; they tasted foods typical of the Middle Eastern climate such as figs, nuts and grapes; they played with a baby doll remembering that Jesus came in lowly form to dwell among us; and they speculated on the joy of the angels, the worship of the Shepherds and the wonder of Jesus earthly family as they beheld him born among them. Food was shared and connections built between preschool families as church outreach sought to show them love and care in this busy season. Take home activities were provided including coloring sheets and the waiting tree advent activity. Thanks for everyone who supported this event and if you would like to participate in outreach to our preschool families consider lending a hand at the winter VBS!



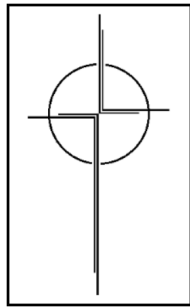
Thanks to everyone who joined for Christmas caroling on a Sunday afternoon in December! Bells were heard a-ringing and the Christmas message and joy were shared to familiar tunes at Linden Grove Waukesha, Summit Woods, Darlene Lynch's apartment and Heritage Court memory care. At Summit Woods we even ran into a group of carolers visiting one of their church shut-ins and sang 'Joy to the World' with them collectively. At all four stops those who listened to the caroling joined in eagerly and helped to guide our song choices. May the joy of the Christmas season carry into the rest of your winter!



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LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

10:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship

Sundays, Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 3, 10, 17

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class

Wednesdays, Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20

10:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

9:00 am Worship

10:30 Potluck Brunch

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

10:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

10:00 am & 7:00 pm Worship

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

9:00 am Worship

No Sunday School/Adult Bible Class