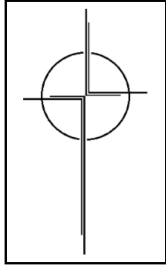


August 2025 -
October 2025

Christ the Life
Quarterly Newsletter



Inside this issue:

<i>A Message From Pastor</i>	1-2
<i>Craft Fair</i>	2
<i>Free to be Faithful Article</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4
<i>Contact Information</i>	4



A Message From Pastor Bushre

Ephesians 6:4 says, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 11:18-19 says, “Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds... Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” At the start of section two of the Small Catechism, the section on Daily Prayers, Luther writes, “How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening.” Later, in the same section, he writes, “How the head of the family should teach his household to ask a blessing and return thanks.” Clearly, Scripture and Lutheran tradition call upon parents, and especially husbands and fathers, to teach their households, wife *and* children, the basics of the Christian faith. As we prepare to begin a new school year this September, now is an appropriate time to begin a study of who, exactly, is this God and Redeemer that we worship and adore.

With this in mind, in order to help parents teach their children the faith in their homes, and in conjunction with my Sunday Adult Bible Class, which will be studying the Small Catechism in our classes this year (all are welcome!), and because all of us, even adults in the faith, can use a refresher course, I’ve decided to do a Newsletter series on the Small Catechism. In our Sunday Adult Class, we’ll be using the newest edition of the Catechism, which was published by Concordia Publishing House in 2017. But since I used the 2005 edition in all my confirmation classes for the last 20 years, I’ll provide page numbers for both the 2005 and 2017 editions with each article I write, so you can check things out for yourself if interested. Each article will summarize the teaching of a section of the Catechism. It will take many articles to get through the whole Catechism, perhaps several years worth, especially since our newsletter is published quarterly. But the basics of the faith should be known by all Christians.

I encourage parents, since it’s our duty, responsibility, and privilege to teach our children the faith, to do family devotions based on the Catechism. If you don’t have a Catechism, please let me know and I’ll get you one free of charge. This is important. If you don’t have children, it’s still important to do devotions just you and your spouse, or even by yourself.

In this first article, I’ll answer the question, “How do you do a devotion?” Pick a time of day when everyone is there, and has a few minutes to sit calmly. Most families do devotions once a day, but you can do it however often works

(Continued on page 2)

A Message From Pastor Bushre... Continued

(Continued from page 1)

for you. If you miss a day, no big deal. Just try to get back on schedule the next day. Be consistent in doing them, keeping the time and frequency you've all agreed on the same, so everyone knows that this time is set aside for family devotions. After a while, your day won't be complete without them!

Since we're basing our devotions on the Catechism, the first thing to do is pick a section of the Catechism you want to study. Don't make the section too big. Take one of the commandments, or a section on one of the articles of the Creed, or one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Look through the section you've chosen to see what Scripture references are used. Begin your devotion by reading out loud one of those passages from Scripture. Next read through your section of the Catechism out loud. Encourage discussion and questions at any point in the devotion. Growth occurs as you mull things over and talk about them. Don't be afraid to look to other parts of the Catechism or Scripture for answers. Also, don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," or "I'll ask Pastor on Sunday." You're not expected to know *everything*, and I'm here to help you. Feel free to use any of the articles I write in this series in your devotions. Finish your devotion with prayer (maybe take turns leading the devotion and the prayer) and maybe a favorite hymn (if you don't have a hymnal and want one in your home, let me know and I'll get you one). Your devotion may take anywhere from 10 minutes to half-an-hour, depending on how much your family talks and asks questions.

For prayers in your devotions, you can use any one of the prayers you find appropriate in the aforementioned section two of the Catechism (pages 32-34, 2005 edition; pages 30-32, 2017 edition). This section contains Daily Prayers for use by any Christian at different times of the day (meals, before going to bed, etc.). These are wonderful to memorize, because if you want to pray but don't know what to say, you can say one of these delightful little prayers. Go ahead and look this section over.

I pray that you will take this task seriously and do family devotions. You'll be amazed at how much you'll learn, how much your children will learn (start preparing them now for Confirmation class!), how close your family will grow, and how much hope you will have as you study about our beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is coming soon! God's richest blessings to you and your family, and have a blessed new school year!

In Christ,

Pastor Bushre



7th ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 8th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Each year gets a little bit bigger and busier! Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for some holiday shopping. Volunteers will be needed to help the day run smoothly. We'll also need bakers for our bake sale. Keep an eye out for more information!



When Satan Subverts Godly Government, the Church Cannot Be Silent

by Rev. Dr. Christopher Thoma, March 23, 2025 Reprinted with permission of the LCMS

English Statesman George Savile quipped, “Men are not hanged for stealing horses, but that horses would not be stolen.” With all that is happening in the world, his words concentrate our thoughts. Justice is not merely about trials and verdicts leading to punishment. It’s also about deterrence.

Through current events, many are relearning a seemingly long-forgotten factor relative to justice. As I watched the evening news with my wife, a segment came on about Venezuelan gang members being ordered back into the country after deportation. Without prompting, she asked, “What does it say when a federal judge orders the immediate return of violent criminals who’ve already been deported?”

Exactly. The enforcement of laws does not merely punish the wicked. It communicates to observers what will be tolerated and what won’t. It warns. It deters.

When a man can execute an insurance company executive in broad daylight only to be cheered on by influencers and media personalities, other potential villains are emboldened, and wickedness is fostered. For believer and unbeliever alike, morality is written into the human heart (ROM. 2:15, JER. 31:33), no matter how the narrative is framed, the facts are not complicated.

So, why would anybody oppose what is written on every human heart? Are they unable to discern distinctions between right and wrong? Or are they willfully rejecting the distinction altogether through radical individualism?

Radically individualized people, while they may pay lip service to law and order, inherently do not view it as beneficial but as oppressive. Radical individualism does not understand personal responsibility as objectively good but as outdated. And because a radically individualized person believes he can be, say, or do anything he wants without consequence, any actual consequence, natural or imposed, is by default deemed unfair.

In a world where this is the rule, chaos reigns supremely. In such a world, people burn cars not because they have been wronged but because they can do so without fear of punishment. In that world, violent criminals are shielded from deportation while law-abiding citizens live in fear. In that world, dreadfulness leads to reward, and goodness is smothered. In that world, horses are stolen not because men are desperate but because they know that no one will stop them.

Christians, you know better.

A Christian’s responsibility in this world is not to remain silent when falsehood runs amok. Even beyond the “household of faith” (GAL. 6:10), Christ calls His believers to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (MATT. 5:13–14). We preserve truth. We are bright-beaming beacons in falsehood’s darkness.

Christians who are all about the Gospel preserve Truth because Christ is Himself the Truth (JOHN 14:6). The Holy Spirit stirs Christians both to know and to confess that abortion is murder—that the guardrail of God’s holy Law against it is not bad but good. In the same way, a Christian citizen does not abdicate the role God has given him in society. He becomes someone willing to “rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter” (PROV. 24:11).

A Christian understands that the biblical mandate to love the neighbor (MARK 12:31) does not mean enabling lawlessness but ensuring that justice prevails so that our neighbors can live in safety and peace. And there’s a very important reason for this. Saint Paul urges believers to pray for and intercede with “kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 TIM. 2:2). He goes on to say, “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (V. 3–4).

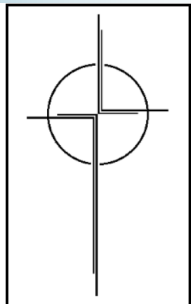
God ordains governments to dispel chaos. God established government to punish evildoers and reward those who live uprightly (ROM. 13:3–4). When a government abandons this ordination, the Church cannot be silent. She speaks and acts against the forces attempting to destabilize and destroy society by undermining God’s own estate.

From Genesis to Revelation, God’s Word reveals that order, justice, and truth are not merely societal values—they are divine imperatives. This is not a political position. It is how God designed His world. Government exists to serve the good, and the Church must speak when that purpose is subverted.

Christ the Life Ev. Lutheran Church

3031 Summit Ave
Waukesha, WI 53188

Church: 262-547-1817
Early Childhood: 262-547-7315
Email: Office@christthelife.com



Visit us online:

ChristTheLife.com

Rev. Christopher Bushre

- PastorBushre@christthelife.com

Mrs. Julie Bushre, Early Childhood Administrator

- JulieBushre@christthelife.com

Mrs. Becki Van Allen, Office Manager

- BeckiV@christthelife.com



Upcoming Events

Elder's Meeting

Thursday, August 7 - 5:30 pm

Board of Christian Ed Meeting

Thursday, August 14 - 6:00 pm

Planning Council Meeting

Thursday, August 14 - 7:00 pm

Breakfast Club - Denny's

Wednesday, August 20 - 9:00 am

EC Closed – Staff Development

Friday, August 29 - Tuesday, September 2

Closed - Labor Day

Monday, September 1

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes

Tuesday, September 2 - 10:00 am

EC Welcome to School Night

Tuesday, September 2 - 5:30 pm

First Day of Preschool & STEAM Lab

Wednesday, September 3

EC Weekly Chapel Begins

Wednesday & Thursday, Sept. 3 & 4 - 11:15 am

Elders Meeting

Thursday, September 4 - 5:30 pm

Ladies Night

Thursday, September 4 - TBD

Bible Classes & Sunday School Resume

Sunday, September 7 - 10:15 am

Board of Christian Ed Meeting

Thursday, September 11 - 6:00 pm

Planning Council Meeting

Thursday, September 11 - 7:00 pm

Breakfast Club - Denny's

Wednesday, September 17 - 9:00 am

EC Sings in Church & Potluck

Sunday, September 28 - 9:00 am / 10:15 am

Breakfast Club - Denny's

Wednesday, October 15 - 9:00 am

EC Field Trip to Cozy Nook Farm

Wednesday, October 15

Reformation Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 26 - TBD