

“O wretched man that I am!
Who will deliver me from
this body of death?
I thank God—through Jesus
Christ our Lord!”



Romans 7:24-25a



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As We Gather

Many of us know the frustration of a houseguest who overstays their welcome. You hint that it's time to leave, but they simply refuse to pack their bags. In our spiritual lives, we harbor a far more dangerous squatter. The Apostle Paul knew this intruder well, describing a bitter, daily struggle within his own heart in Romans 7. No matter how much we desire to live perfectly for our Savior, an unwelcome guest—our sinful nature—stubbornly remains, tracking the mud of temptation and failure into our daily lives. As we gather for worship today, we bring the exhaustion of this internal battle before the Lord. Prepare your hearts to hear how God addresses this unwelcome guest, and rejoice in the deliverance found only in Christ!

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

369 – All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 38:1, 4; 51:10

P O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath,

C **Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!**

P For my iniquities have gone over my head;

C **Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C **And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! We gather today acknowledging a harsh reality. Though we belong to Christ by our Baptism, we often find our hearts harboring an unwelcome guest—our own rebellious nature. We are burdened by desires that run contrary to God's holy Law, and our own strength cannot free us. Let us therefore draw near to our gracious God, confessing our bondage to sin, and seeking the deliverance He promises through His Son, Jesus Christ.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have allowed the unwelcome guest of our sinful flesh to direct our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have done the evil we should have avoided, and we have failed to do the good You command. We are weary under the weight of our transgressions and cannot free ourselves. Have mercy on us. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, deliver us from our captivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through Jesus Christ, the unwelcome guest of sin is stripped of its condemning power, and you are declared forgiven and free. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-ginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.


Gloria Patri
GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

The logo features a large, stylized cross above the words 'Gloria Patri' in a decorative, cursive font. Below this, the words 'GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER' are written in a simple, sans-serif font.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.’ ¹¹ “As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹² Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 145:1-14

- P** I will extol You, my God, O King;
C **And I will bless Your name forever and ever.**
- P** Every day I will bless You,
C **And I will praise Your name forever and ever.**
- P** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
C **And His greatness is unsearchable.**
- P** One generation shall praise Your works to another,
C **And shall declare Your mighty acts.**
- P** I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
C **And on Your wondrous works.**
- P** Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,
C **And I will declare Your greatness.**
- P** They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,
C **And shall sing of Your righteousness.**
- P** The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
C **Slow to anger and great in mercy.**
- P** The Lord is good to all,
C **And His tender mercies are over all His works.**
- P** All Your works shall praise You, O Lord,
C **And Your saints shall bless You.**
- P** They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
C **And talk of Your power,**
- P** To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
C **And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.**
- P** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
C **And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.**
- P** The Lord upholds all who fall,
C **And raises up all who are bowed down.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Text

Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.
¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sermon

The Unwelcome Guest

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres - ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Offering Hymn

441 (1-2)

1 We give Thee but Thine own, What -
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As
e'er the gift may be; All that we have is
stew - ards true re - ceive And glad - ly, as Thou
Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give!

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ The Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a -
oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry; Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is He, Bless ed is He,
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Peace of the Lord

Pax Domini

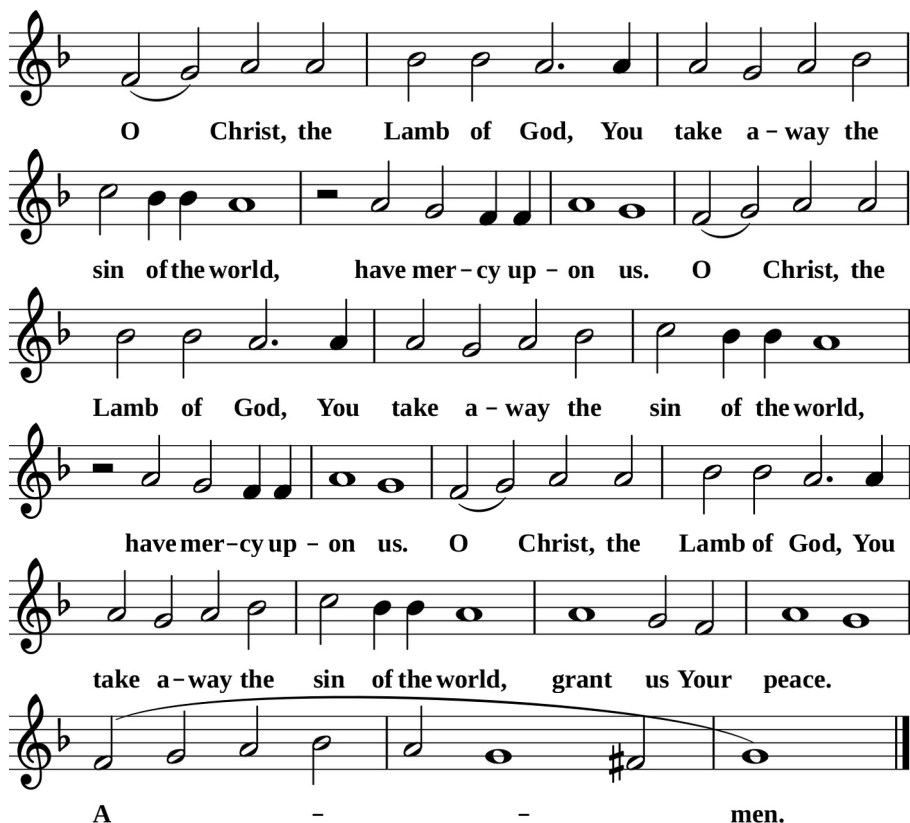
P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C Amen.



Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the
Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,
have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
A - - men.

Distribution

Holy Communion is rightly called a ‘Sacrament’ because it is a “Sacred act;” not in what WE do for Christ, but in what Christ does for US! Because God’s Word presents the reception of this Sacrament as a most intimate expression of spiritual and confessional unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 10:16-17 Romans 16:17-18), we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us by membership here or another CLC church come forward at this time. This is not a judgment of anyone’s faith, but rather an expression of ours. Please speak with pastor if you are seeking a church home or have any questions. We’d love to have you!



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -
cording to Your word, For my eyes have seen Your Salvation:
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a Light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the Glo - ry of Your peo ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry
be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
As it was in the be - ginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for -
ev - er - more. A - men.

Thanksgiving

- P** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
- C** For His mercy endures forever.

P O God the Father, Fount and Source of all goodness, in loving-kindness You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We implore You not to forsake Your children, but evermore to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn

324 (1-3, 5-8) – Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar

July 5	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
July 12	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
July 19	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
July 20-24	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **July 5** – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **August 2** – Education/Elders
- **September 6** – Trustees

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Have you ever planted a garden, only to watch your seedlings wither or get choked out by weeds? The difference between a barren patch and a bountiful harvest comes down to the dirt. Next Sunday, we'll take spiritual "Soil Samples" as we study Jesus' Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. We will honestly examine the hardened, stony, and thorny soils of our own sinful nature. But more importantly, we will marvel at the grace of our Master Gardener. Through the life-giving seed of His Word, the Holy Spirit cultivates our hearts to be the "good ground" that hears the Word, understands it, and bears abundant fruit. Join us next week as the Lord prepares us to grow!

Come Fly With Us to Vacation Bible School: Join us this summer for an exciting week of adventure at our "Soaring High!" Vacation Bible School, July 20–24, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am each day! Children ages 4–12 are invited to hop in the hot air balloon basket as we explore new destinations and learn that Jesus is our best treasure and the only way to heaven. Each day will be filled with:

- Christ-centered Bible lessons
- Creative crafts and active games
- Joyful singing and tasty snacks

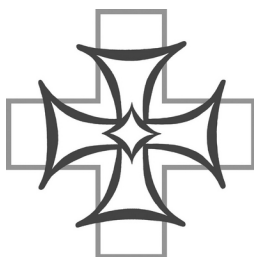
We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, grandkids, and classmates—any child who would be blessed by a fun and faith-filled week learning about Jesus!

Register today at www.winterhavenlutheran.com/vbs, or speak with Pastor Sauers for more information. If you're able to volunteer during the week or would like to donate snacks or drinks, we'd be very grateful—just let Pastor Sauers know how you can help!

2026 CLC Mission Helpers to Africa: Nine Mission Helpers (Lauren Gurgel, Abigail Gerbitz, Elijah Sumey, Jeff & Sarah Radichel, Josh & Lydia Ohlmann, Andrew Lau, Alexis Aichele) and leaders Pastor Tom Naumann and Missionary Todd Ohlmann are traveling this week to Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. Joined in Tanzania by Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann, the team will spend the coming weeks sharing the Gospel with an estimated 6,000 children in local CLC areas. Please keep them in your prayers! Follow their trip at: www.2026clcmisionhelpertripeastafrica.blogspot.com.

CLC Call News: Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD, has returned the call to St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. <> Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Berea Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has returned the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI. <> Pastor Michael Roehl of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Mr. Steve Sydow has returned the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Lori Ruthenbeck has accepted a one-year teaching call to St. John’s Lutheran School, Okabena, MN. <> Jill Liepold has accepted a one-year teaching call to St. John’s Lutheran School, Okabena, MN. <> Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose has also received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN.

Fruits of Faith		June 28, 2026		Attendance: WH – 30	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>			
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>			
\$2,020.00	General Budget	\$0.00	CLC General Budget		
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need		
+\$658.00	-Under / +Over	-\$67.31	-Under / +Over		
\$33,420.97	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,240.00	Year to Date Offerings		
\$35,412.00	Year to Date Need	\$1,750.06	Year to Date Need		
-\$1,991.03	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$510.06	Year to Date (+/-)		
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>			
		\$50.00	Kinship		





Excerpts from the 2026 CLC “Convention Chronicles,” June 25-28, 2026

During the recently-completed CLC Convention in Eau Claire, a daily news sheet was published. The edited excerpts below provide a summary of the actions taken by Convention. The full Proceedings of the Convention will be published later this summer. The total number of delegates (called workers and laymen) to the 2026 Convention was 139, down slightly from 143 in 2024.

Devotions, Essays, and Worship – Pastor Jonah Albrecht served as the Convention Chaplain. The theme of his devotions was “Let the Word of God Be Your Everything.” On Thursday evening Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer of Berea, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, presented the first essay entitled “The Word of God: Preach It!” The basis of the essay was 2 Timothy 4:1-2. Mr. Jamie Arndt, a lay member of Berea, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, presented the second essay of the convention Friday afternoon. He made use of I Peter 3:15 as the basis for his paper entitled “The Word of God: Defend It!” On Saturday evening the Convention Communion Service was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. The address of Pastor Ben Libby was based on Isaiah 12:1-6. The theme was “The LORD: Our Strength, Our Salvation, Our Song.” The service was well attended, and the volume of the singing and organ suited the occasion. On Saturday Pastor Paul D. Nolting conducted a memorial service, remembering to our LORD 20 leaders and wives of leaders in the CLC who have been called to glory during the past 2 years.

CLC President's Address – President Michael Wilke of Saginaw, Michigan addressed the assembly Thursday morning. He highlighted much of the work of the CLC over the past biennium, as well as directed the body to the tasks before us at this Convention. As always, it is with humility and confidence that we approach God’s throne to seek wisdom and guidance in accomplishing His will for His Church.

Elections:

- CLC President – Pastor Michael Wilke (Incumbent)
- CLC VP Pastor – Pastor Joseph Naumann (Incumbent)
- CLC Secretary – Pastor David Ude
- CLC Moderator – Pastor Emeritus Paul D. Nolting (Incumbent)
- Missions Called Servant – Pastor Michael Gurath
- Missions Layman – Mr. Joel Krafft (Incumbent)
- Regents Called Servant – Pastor Wayne Eichstadt (Incumbent)
- Regents Layman – Mr. James Burkhardt (Incumbent)
- Trustees Called Servant – Prof. Jeff Schierenbeck (Incumbent)
- Trustees Layman – Mr. Tom Lentz (Incumbent)
- Board of Ed. and Pub. – Pastor - Pastor Zachary Sippert
- Board of Ed. and Pub. – Professor – Prof. Ross Roehl

Board of Doctrine – We were blessed to have no major doctrinal issues to address during this convention. The report of the floor committee on doctrine included the following statement: “We thank the General Pastoral Conference for addressing ‘any remaining concerns regarding previous studies on church fellowship’ and give glory to God for the doctrinal unity He has given to our fellowship as expressed by its report.”

Domestic Missions Presentation – Two members of the Board of Missions gave an update on stateside mission efforts. The Traveling Vacation Bible School (TVBS) program is being modified to better serve the situations of various CLC churches. At least nine separate VBS locations will be aided through this program during this summer alone. The CLC Diaspora Program seeks to unite isolated CLC members to meet and support each other in their given locality. Preaching stations in Des Moines, IA; Brainerd, MN; Pittsboro, NC; and Lincoln, NE have all arisen, in part, through these efforts. With an increase in contact information, the Board of Missions hopes to grow existing stations as well as form new ones.

Summary of the Most Significant Resolutions:

- Three teachers and one pastor were admitted into the voting membership of the CLC
- The Convention directed our ministry recruiters to continue focusing on recruiting and retaining students training for the preaching and teaching ministries. We urge our congregations, pastors, teachers, and members, especially parents, to take an active role in encouraging our youths to prayerfully consider serving in the public ministry.
- We encourage the leadership of congregations to formulate and/or review a plan to regularly assess the financial, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of their called workers, and we direct the CLC president and conference visitors to address this critical need [called worker support] and to report their progress to the 2028 CLC Convention.
- The Convention established a committee to develop a “Lay Ministry Training Program.” Its goal will be to provide designated laymen with education to carry out specific functions of the public ministry as needed in a congregation under the supervision of a regular pastor.
- Because of various legal issues, it is important for each CLC congregation to establish their own incorporation status and to maintain it. The Convention resolved that the CLC Board of Trustees will maintain a list of CLC congregations and their incorporation status and will report on this matter to the Coordinating Council.
- Concerning ILC’s Gymnasium building project: The current estimate to complete the building is \$10.6 million, of which about \$2.5 million is on hand. The Convention approved a loan of up to \$7 million from the CEF for the ILC Gymnasium once the Board of Trustees has determined that funds are available. The Board of Trustees will solicit loans to the CEF for this purpose. The ILC Building Committee should proceed with construction as soon as possible after the necessary funding is secured.

Finance – The delegates accepted the Board of Trustees proposal of the following overall CLC operating budget for FY27:

Education	\$ 15,000
Trustees	\$ 69,120
Missions	\$492,500
Regents (subsidy)	\$817,300
Regents (student revenue)	\$989,700
Total CLC Operating Budget	\$2,383,620

President’s Closing Remarks – CLC President Pastor Michael Wilke shared many reasons to give thanks to our gracious God for all the blessings throughout the convention, especially the blessing of the Word of God and the forgiveness of sins it reveals to all of us. His remarks were followed by the singing of “God’s Word is our Great Heritage.”



✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

July 6–11, 2026

Monday - *Galatians 5:16-24*

The apostle Paul describes the fierce, daily battle between our sinful flesh and the Holy Spirit. Our old nature constantly wars against God's desires, but we find comfort knowing that those who are Christ's have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (v. 24).

Tuesday - *Psalms 51:1-12*

King David laments his sinful condition, confessing, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity" (v. 5). Recognizing that we cannot possibly cleanse ourselves from our corrupted nature, we cry out to the LORD to "create in me a clean heart, O God" (v. 10).

Wednesday - *Ephesians 4:20-24*

Because of the grace we have received, we are commanded to "put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt" (v. 22). Through Christ, we are daily renewed in the spirit of our minds and put on the new man, created in righteousness and holiness.

Thursday - *1 John 1:5-10*

We cannot deny the presence of our sinful flesh. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (v. 8). Yet, when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v. 9).

Friday - *Romans 6:1-11*

How do we handle the stubborn reality of our sinful flesh? We remember our Baptism! Paul reminds us that "our old man was crucified with Him" (v. 6), freeing us from the eternal bondage of sin so that we might confidently walk in newness of life.

Saturday - *Hebrews 12:1-4*

As we grow weary of the internal struggle against temptation, we are encouraged to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us" (v. 1). We endure this daily battle by continually "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (v. 2).

