



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

April 2022 Eagle Newsletter



Mark 16:6 ESV

"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him."

Introducing the Catechumenate: Rights of Initiation and the Easter Vigil

Easter has been a time in the church for welcoming new members into the body of Christ. The theme of death and resurrection corresponds to baptism, as Paul teaches in Romans 6. In the early church, confirmation often followed directly after baptism, as a ritual “strengthening” of the newly baptized with prayers and anointing with oil. After baptism and confirmation, the newly baptized would join the community in the Eucharist.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the Rites of Initiation for the Christian life. If the catechumenate is preparation for Christian living, the Rites of Initiation are the official beginning of the Christian life. These rites mark the beginning of the Christian life that walks the way of the cross.

The Rites of Initiation do not mean that catechesis has come to an end. The practice of the early church was to follow these rites with a period known as *mystagogy*, or an explanation of the sacraments. Prior to Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, the catechumen would have little exposure to the rituals outside of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. This has changed a bit in our Constantinian age—in most cases, catechesis also involves an explanation of the sacraments that the catechumen is preparing to receive.

The Easter Vigil is the setting for these rites. The Vigil is a special service on the evening before Easter Sunday. In some instances, the Vigil can last many hours or even all night. In our Lutheran tradition, the Vigil is slightly longer than a regular Sunday service. It rehearses God’s great acts of deliverance in the Old Testament, welcomes new members through Baptism and Confirmation, proclaims the Easter Gospel, and culminates with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

This year, our Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 16th at 7PM. If you’ve never attended a Vigil before, I encourage you to give it a try this year.

In Christ, Under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard

Deaconess Placement:

Thank you for the kind welcome and support to our deaconess field works student, Katie Kaufmann, this past year. Katie’s internship placement will be announced at a church service on Saturday, April 2nd at 3PM in the Chapel of Our Lord at Concordia University Chicago. All are invited to attend either in person or via CUC’s live stream. <https://vimeo.com/cuclive>

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday, April 14th: 7PM

Good Friday, April 15th: 4:30PM and 7PM

Easter Vigil, April 16th: 7PM

Easter Sunday, April 17th: 6:30AM, 8AM, and 11AM



From the
Pastor's
Desk

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club will be reading the vintage murder mystery The Drowning Pool by Ross Macdonald. We are still meeting via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us or have suggestions for future books.



Help Needed: Monies from the estate of +Arnold Eurick+ are being used to replace and repair the Montrose and Lavergne steps leading into our church. This work is being planned for the last week in April. Watch for information as to how to enter the church through other doors, including the ramp during this time. This is a major expense that is falling short by \$5,000. We are looking for donations to cover the cost of material and permits. If you are interested in helping with this project, please indicate your donation is for the *Church Steps of St. John's* when giving or mailing it to church. Thank you for your consideration in helping to keep God's House in order. You can also contact Terry Wilczak, Chairperson of the Trustees, twilczak@harrissteelco.com

From the Principal: St. John's began the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 school year this past Monday. I am always amazed at how fast the school year goes by. Also, this past weekend, the fifth through eighth grade students performed their musical "Into the Woods". It was good to see an in-person audience for these two performances. The students under the leadership of Mrs. Jurica did a great job. Special thanks to Pastor Ehrhard for his assistance with sound and video taping both performances.

The National Lutheran Schools Accreditation Team visited St. John's from Sunday, 03/27 through Tuesday, 03/28. They will provide an exit report which will be shared with the faculty. Board of Christian Education, Church Council and the Voters Assembly.

St. John's has relaxed many of the COVID-19 mitigations and protocols. The school is mask recommended at this time. Some students and teachers have decided to continue to wear face masks.

Holy Week is fast approaching and school will dismiss on Maundy Thursday at 11:30AM and begin Spring Break. I pray that you will be blessed once again as you worship during Holy Week and especially when we all rejoice with the words, "He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!" *Thank you for your prayers and support!*

Principal Green

St. John's PTL Spring FUNdraiser: EVERYONE is invited to the PTL FUNdraiser on Saturday, May 21st at Schiller Woods from 12PM-4PM. Please see the flyer on the next page for complete details. Although it is our main goal to bring together families for a great time socializing, we are still hoping to raise much needed funds for our school. Donations for the raffle and/or silent auction are greatly appreciated.

- Donate an item: Anything will be gratefully accepted!
- Donate a service: Do you have a special talent? Are you a dog walker, photographer, handyman, etc? Any service you are willing to provide would be amazing!
- Donate an experience: Do you have season tickets? Do you own/work at a restaurant? Do you have a vacation rental? The possibilities are endless!
- Secure a donation from a person or company you know or patronize. Please contact PTL to get a donation request letter if you need one.
- Give a monetary donation to have items purchased for the raffle. We are more than happy to do the shopping for you! We would also welcome with open arms anyone who would like to give a hand that day or help us in the planning. If you want to help or have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact PTL by emailing PTL@stjohnschicago.org or calling/texting Jennifer Stinar at 773-999-6524. We hope to see everyone at the picnic!

YOU ARE INVITED...

St. John's PTL

Spring FUNdraiser

What? A PICNIC

Bring your chairs and other picnic supplies for an afternoon of fun to support St. John's. Games and entertainment for the whole family. Food and drinks for sale (or bring your own). Buy raffle tickets to win fabulous prizes and bid on silent auction items.

Rumor has it you may even get to "DUNK" some of your favorite teachers!

Who? EVERYONE

School Families * Church Families * Relatives * Friends * Neighbors
Invite anyone and everyone you know to come have a great time while supporting our school!

When?

Saturday, May 21st
12:00pm-4:00pm

Where?

Schiller Woods
8400 W. Irving Park Rd. Grove 12

Why?

Funds raised will be used for much needed playground upgrades and recess enhancements.



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In order to enhance the beauty of the chancel for Easter, orders are now being taken for Lily, Hyacinth and Tulip plants. These plants



will be delivered to church, placed in the chancel and may be picked up after the last service of Easter Sunday (plants may also be picked up the following week in the office.) Plants not picked up will be given to the homebound.

The cost of one plant is \$10.00. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it to the office, Altar Guild window in the narthex or drop it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

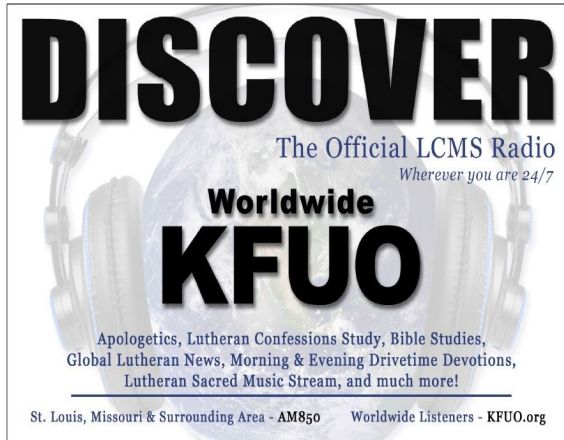
In Honor of: _____

Will pick up _____ yes _____ no

Lily _____ Hyacinth _____ Tulip _____

Phone Number: _____

Paid: Check # _____ or Cash _____



Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at kfuo.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUOradio.

Issues, Etc.—Weekdays @ 3PM CST or ON DEMAND via Website! Christ-centered, Cross-focused talk radio.

Law and Gospel—Weekdays @ 9:30AM CST or ON DEMAND via Website! This is a program that uses the theological distinctions between Law and Gospel not only to apply the Bible but also to understand our relationship to the holy Trinity, our gracious salvation because of Jesus Christ and how to interpret reality the way God thinks.

Faith'n'Family—Weekdays @ 10AM CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

Faith'n'Family is a program that lets family's keep their Lutheran faith first as we praise God for the gift He has given us in our children, parents, grandparents, and even the in-laws! Every day, Faith'n'Family will have an expert on the show to discuss life issues such as money management, dealing with divorce, adoption, how to raise children to lead a God-centered life in a very non-Christian world, and more. And the best part of all, you can be part of the show by calling in with your questions and comments for our expert! While Faith 'N Family at KFUO is well aware of the fast-paced world of today, we want to keep the focus of raising our family and yours on what's really important—making Christ known for generations to come!

Cross Defense—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

When a skeptic questions us about our faith, or when we ourselves have questions about what we believe, how do we answer them? Learn how to address modern-day issues and tough arguments levied against faith, *and* how to engage these conversations with intelligence and grace. Join us and discover how to share your faith clearly and lovingly.

Free to be Faithful — 3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 2:30PM CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

Free to be Faithful is very specific in addressing public policy matters that impact our LCMS community. It is often topical and linked to contemporary issues, such as political elections or the March for Life. the analytical program regularly has experts and observers interpreting the issues at hand and suggesting courses of action. Listen to high-caliber guests discussing in-depth knowledge of issues with host Kip Allen.





APRIL

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

TEACHING THE FAITH — APRIL 1-15

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrates the many ways that God's children are instructed, encouraged and strengthened in the faith. By teaching the faith, we nurture the faithful and reach the lost.

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

- 1.** with thanksgiving for the gift of faith received at Baptism. Ask the Lord to continue to strengthen that faith — and the budding faith of our children — until we depart this life and are united with the Lord.
- 2.** with thanksgiving to God for the gift of His holy and inspired Word, the Sacred Scriptures; and for the Book of Concord and the many teaching aids that help us understand that Word aright and rejoice in its consolation.

3. for Christian families, that the Lord would provide the assistance and tools necessary to overcome every challenge — big or small — that might drive them apart.

4. for strong Christian marriages, that husbands and wives would cling to each other in the Lord, despite life's challenges, and raise their children to walk in the way of the Lord.

5. for Christian parents, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.

6. that family members would treat each other with kindness and patience, so that each member might be built up in the family of God.

7. for our children and young people, who face daily assaults on their Christian beliefs, that God would strengthen and encourage them to stand firm while sharing the Gospel.

8. for our churches, that they would provide useful education and programs to help equip people at every stage of life — teens, husbands and wives, parents, caretakers of aging parents and more.

9. that God would continue to provide faithful church workers to serve as role models and teach people about their identity as a baptized child of God.

10. that church members would eagerly volunteer their time and talents to support the congregation's educational programs, such as vacation Bible school, Sunday school and groups for young families.

11. that LCMS members would eagerly participate in Bible studies, small-group discussions and private study.

12. with thanksgiving for faithful parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers and other role models who help to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Prov. 22:6).

13. for the Concordia University System and the Synod's two seminaries, that the Lord would bless their work in training new generations of workers to serve the Church.

14. for the Synod's directors of Family Life Ministry, that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.

15. that we might have hearts that are willing and eager to serve the Lord in every way.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

APRIL Pray For Us Calendar

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES — APRIL 16-30

Since the Civil War, LCMS pastors have served as military chaplains. Today, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) supports active duty, reserves, National Guard and Civil Air Patrol chaplains. MAF recruits, interviews and endorses all military chaplains and supports them throughout their careers. MAF also provides a network of care for our nation's military members, families and veterans through Operation Barnabas.

Remember God's work through LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) as you pray:

16. that God would bless and guide the work of the MAF director and assistant director.

17. for the President of the United States. Ask God to guide our commander in chief to lead with wisdom for the protection of the innocent against evil.

18. for LCMS military chaplains serving on active duty for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

19. for our LCMS Reserve and National Guard chaplains, especially those who have been mobilized stateside or overseas and taken from their parishes to extended active duty assignments, for those deployed, their families and their home parishes.

20. for Operation Barnabas, which is designed to meet the needs of congregations in the event their pastor/chaplain is mobilized. Operation Barnabas also seeks to assist veterans and military families during and after deployment.

21. for all congregations that reach out to members of our military through Operation Barnabas, that they would uphold them in prayer as they help to meet their physical, psychological and spiritual needs through the training they have received and the Lord's provision.

22. for increasing opportunities for LCMS chaplains to spread Christ's message of salvation, hope and restoration to those they serve.

23. for all chaplains returning home, that they would receive a hero's welcome for their

sacrifice to this country so that in freedom we can continue to openly worship the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

24. for those who suffer from battle stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pray that God would bring healing and renewal to those who have served or who are currently serving.

25. for all chaplains who are sick or have sick family members, that the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort would look with favor upon them, and as it pleases Him, restore them to health or give them the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.

26. for all chaplains in harm's way, that God would not let their hearts despair nor their faith fail them, but sustain, guide and comfort them.

27. for all members of the military who were disabled during their duty, that our heavenly Father would mercifully guide, aid and strengthen all

those with physical disabilities, enabling them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement for all their endeavors.

28. with thanksgiving to God for providing LCMS chaplains to serve members of the armed forces. Please pray that military chaplains would have every opportunity to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with members of the military and anyone with whom they work and live.

29. for all military chaplains upon their return, that they would be reunited with their families, find gainful employment and receive all the care they need to heal their minds, bodies and souls. Grant that they would always look to Christ as their rock and their redeemer.

30. for those who minister to the armed forces, that by God's gracious working, they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at lcms.org/prayforus or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



April 1st

Grace Wenzel

April 2nd

Robert Clark, Grace Moore & Jarvis Smallfield

April 15th

Jayme Wier

April 16th

Laura Puenner & Jennifer Weith

April 17th

Joanna Stramel

April 20th

Julie Gall

April 21st

Dan Friend & Pearl Osmon

April 23rd

Katherine Bohus & Julie Smallfield

April 25th

Kimberly Scott

April 26th

Linda Galek

April 27th

Krystina Davis, Mark Eggert & Mikki Wo

April 29th

Lenore Bowman

April 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS



"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out." (Deuteronomy 28:3-6). This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people.

He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only "if you obey the voice of the LORD your God." (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you." (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn't obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn't keep the commandments of the Lord and "walk in his ways" (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).