



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

April 2023 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.”

Holy Week Schedule:

Maundy Thursday, April 6th: 7PM

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

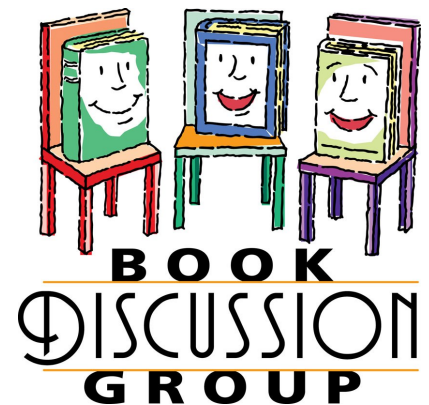
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 8th: 7PM

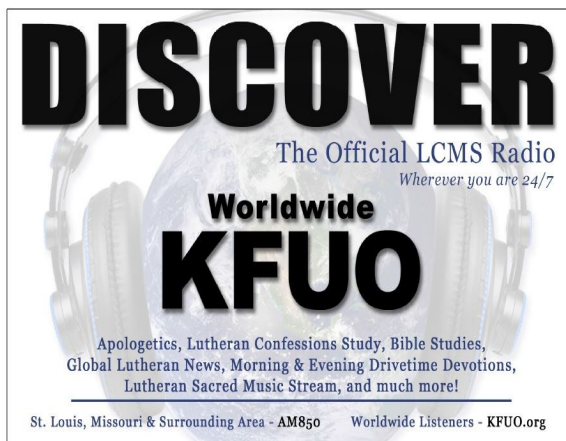
Easter Sunday, April 9th: 6:30AM and 9AM

From the Principal: Service is one of St. John's core values. One type of service is the weekly chapel offerings that are collected for a designated mission of the month. In addition, parents serve in various capacities at St. John's. Most recently, several parents served as ushers for the spring musical. There were several students who also served as ushers. St. John's Lutheran School will participate in the NID-LCMS Shine Service Event in April. This event is designed to get organizations out into the community doing various service projects.

St. John's will not have school on April 4th due to the mayoral run-off election. Spring break will begin on April 7th. School will be back in session on Monday April 17th. May God bless your Holy Week worship and grant you a Happy Easter! - Principal Green

Ladies Book Club: In March The Ladies Book Club read The Personal Librarian by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. This novel of historical fiction recounts how a black American woman was forced to hide her true identity and pass for white to curate a collection of rare books and artwork for JP Morgan. In April we will be reading A Death in Tokyo by Keigo Higashino, a murder mystery. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Berry Carey if you would like to join us.





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUE

Find and Listen at kfue.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUEradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUEradio).

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 KFUE 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.





April 1st

Grace Wenzel & Kari Wier

April 2nd

Robert Clark, Grace Moore & Jarvis Smallfield

April 4th

Brandon Wier

April 5th

Thomas Clark

April 15th

Jayne Wier

April 16th

Jennifer Gulla, Laura Puenner & Linnea Smallfield

April 20th

Julie Gall

April 21st

Dan Friend, Pearl Osmon & Cheryl Schoessow

April 23rd

Katherine Bohus & Julie Smallfield

April 25th

Kimberly Scott

April 26th

Linda Galek & Ella Schoessow

April 27th

Krystina Davis, Mark Eggert & Mikki Wo

April 29th

Lenore Bowman



April 2023 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

One of the most common questions asked when the topic of stewardship comes up, is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church. The question asked most is “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So let’s look at reasons for why you should or should not.

Here are some of the reasons often offered as to why Christians shouldn’t give a tithe to their church. Some say you shouldn’t because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament, and lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord,” there is no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t because of some fear. They are afraid that if they give a tithe their gift will be misused, that they won’t have enough to get things that they use, want, or need.

Here are some of the reasons for why Christians should give a tithe to their church. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded and did give a tithe. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to give in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor 6:1–2; 2 Cor 8:7–23; 2 Cor 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not giving any land because they had no time to farm: their full time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There is after all no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would something like this: I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

I think this same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways—time, talents, and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you just as the Word of God—Old and New Testament alike—promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months, and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.