



**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church  
& School

April 2024 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.”

## From the Pastor:

### Resurrection Scars

Most of you probably don't know that I have a 12-inch scar on my belly from a major surgery I had while I was in college. Doctors discovered a tumor on my liver and they were unsure if it was cancerous or could become cancerous. The good news is that the surgery was a success and after a week in the hospital and another three weeks recuperating at home, I was back to my normal routine. And since the liver is the only organ that regenerates itself, I'm back to where I was before the surgery and without the abnormal liver functions.

The bad news is that the scar will never go away. And it hurts. Every day. The pain is mostly mild, but sometimes a little sharper (especially when I accidentally bump where the incision was). This is one of the reasons I look forward to the resurrection. No more scars.

Since we are dust, and must return to dust, that means that all the defects of our bodies will also return to the dust. You probably don't have a scar like mine but you might have your own reminder of mortality. If you don't know, chances are good that you will. But scars will also return to the dust, and the body that the Holy Spirit raises on the Last Day will be free from those marks.

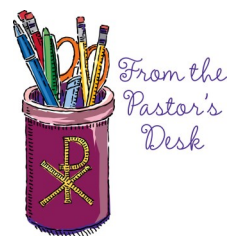
But there's one exception.

Jesus did not return to the dust upon His death. In a little more than 24 hours, He resuscitates. And so when He appears to His disciples and shows them His hands and side, the scars of His crucifixion remain. When He holds up the bread to bless it, the Emmaus disciples witness the discoloration. When He raises His hands to bless the eleven just before He ascends into heaven, they see the marks of the nail. As He sits at God's right hand in heaven, His right hand still has a scar on it. They are the resurrection scars.

That Jesus makes a point of showing His crucifixion scars even in His resurrection indicates that He is the crucified one to eternity. The resurrection doesn't turn back time and nullify the cross. The crucifix is also the sign of the resurrection. Christ is crucified. Christ is risen. Christ is scarred, even as we lose our scars, as an eternal testimony to His love, a love that lays down His life for the sake of another.

In Christ, under the cross

Pastor Erhard



**From the Principal:** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25

The students of St. John's will be spending their first week of April on Easter break. When we return to school on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have the opportunity to view the solar eclipse with ISO certified glasses. At the end of the week, we will participate in our first NID SHINE event - First Responder Appreciation Event from 9:30-11:00AM.

On Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> please join us for Food & Fellowship at Portillo's in Harwood Heights for another Give Back Night! Our second opportunity to SHINE for the NID will be Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> after school as our students and families spend time cleaning up in the neighborhood.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a Christian education for the 2024-2025 school year, please have them join us for our Open House on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. We would love the opportunity to share the good news of our Savior's resurrection with new families next year.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

- Principal Runge

**Ladies Book Club:** In March The Ladies Book Club read Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty by Anderson Cooper. Cooper is the son of Gloria Vanderbilt. This well researched novel brings the good and the bad of the Vanderbilt family to life. In April we will be reading Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. This work of fiction was endorsed by Oprah's Book Club in 2023.

The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.





**From the Music Director:** A huge thank you to the ringers and musicians that contributed to this year's Easter Celebration. Kara, Skylar, Gretal, Cheryl, Karen, Don, Meg, Linnea, Sandy, Kathryn, Laura, Julie, Loree, Don, and Ross. It's always exciting to rehearse and play with these groups for Easter.





**Landscaping Project:** In anticipation of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, we have started beautifying the grounds of St. John's with a comprehensive landscape project, starting with removing several trees that were preventing grass growth and soil retention. Fifteen yards of top soil were added to the lawns in front of the parsonage, the lawn in front of the school, and near Laverne. One and a half yards of old soil was removed and two yards of new top soil was added to the 4939 walkway flower bed.

The parsonage lawn will be sodded as soon as Kentucky Blue Grass sod is available, most likely mid-April. In May flowers and shrubs will be planted.

This is a two-year project with additional seeding next year as well as new flowers and shrubs on the Laverne lawn and new annual flowers near the 4939 entrance.

Another project in consideration is replacing some old aggregate side walk at the top of ramp, making it easier to use for handicap access and deliveries. A possible solution is paver bricks.





# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION EVENT



FIRST RESPONDERS ARE INVITED TO STOP BY THE ST. JOHN'S PLAYGROUND FOR COFFEE, DONUTS AND THANKS FROM OUR STUDENTS!



*Thank you*

FRIDAY,  
APRIL 12TH, 2024  
9:30 - 11 AM

ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
4939 W. MONTROSE AVE.  
PLEASE PARK IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT  
LOCATED ON MONTROSE AVE.

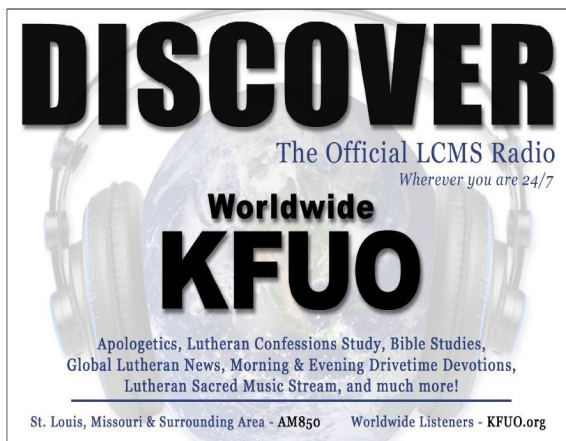


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EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



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**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** — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.





**April 1st**

Grace Wenzel &amp; Kari Wier

**April 20th**

Julie Gall

**April 2nd**

Robert Clark, Grace Moore &amp; Jarvis Smallfield

**April 21st**

Dan Friend, Pearl Osmon &amp; Cheryl Schoessow

**April 4th**

Brandon Wier

**April 23rd**

Katherine Bohus &amp; Julie Smallfield

**April 5th**

Thomas Clark

**April 25th**

Kimberly Scott

**April 15th**

Jayme Wier

**April 26th**

Linda Galek &amp; Ella Schoessow

**April 16th**

Jennifer Gulla &amp; Laura Puenner &amp; Linnea Smallfield

**April 27th**

Krystina Davis, Mark Eggert &amp; Michelle Wo

**April 17th**

Joanna Stramel

**April 29th**

Lenore Bowman

## April 2024 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

### Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

