



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

August 2020 Eagle Newsletter



Matthew 19: 4-6 ESV

⁴[Jesus said], "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Masks of God

Masks are all over the place these days. At the beginning of the pandemic, authorities urged citizens not to wear masks to prevent hoarding (Americans would never do that, would they?) so that medical personnel and others with increased exposure and risk could use them. Medical personnel need to wear masks partly to protect themselves, but mostly to protect others; who wants a surgeon hacking a loogie into your open wound while you're under sedation?

But now that we've "flattened the curve" for a time, and allowed the market to react to the supply shortage of an 7-billion-person world all wanting masks at the same time, authorities have changed their tune a bit. Wearing a mask still doesn't prevent infection absolutely, but it does mitigate risk. It's a bit like wearing a seatbelt. Seatbelts don't mean that you are guaranteed to survive any car accident, but you are more likely to survive when you're wearing one. They might be uncomfortable, but we wear them. It's the law, even.

Masks, though, have become surprisingly polarizing. There have even been stories of people murdering someone over mask wearing.

What does God have to say about it all? Well, He wears masks.

What else is all our work to God—whether in the fields, in the garden, in the city, in the house, in war, or in government—but just such a child's performance, by which He wants to give His gifts in the fields, at home, and everywhere else? These are the masks of God, behind which He wants to remain concealed and do all things. - Martin Luther (Luther's Works, vol. 14).

"Mask of God" is one way that Martin Luther talks about vocation. Vocation is that teaching in the church that God works through our works. So a mother becomes a mask of God when she feeds her baby. God gives daily bread (as we pray in the Lord's Prayer) but He masks Himself in motherhood to give daily bread to babies.

Vocation teaches us as Christians to look for opportunities to love and serve our neighbors in whatever relationships we find ourselves in. This brings us back to masks. Christians should not think about masks as personal protection equipment (PPE), but neighbor serving equipment (NSE). Masks as PPE will always land us in a polarized debate. But masks as NSE means that Christians are willing to suffer a little discomfort for the good of their neighbors.

So next time you put on your mask, remember that you are also a mask of God.

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club will be reading The Queens of Animation by Nathalia Holt in August. This is a well researched book which reveals the vital contributions made by women to Disney animation and their continued impact on animated filmmaking today. Hopefully, we will be meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 7PM in the St. John's Conference Room.



From the Principal: I recently shared with the faculty that the 2020-2021 school year will be unlike any other school year. Months of planning for reopening began in March and continue even now. St. John's teachers are adjusting to setting up their rooms for appropriate social distancing. Teachers may once again adjust to returning to distance learning on short notice. Temperature checks and masks will be required for all entering the building. Hand sanitizer will be plentiful. Janitorial staff will have to adjust to new cleaning protocols. Please keep our teachers, staff, students and their families in your prayers.

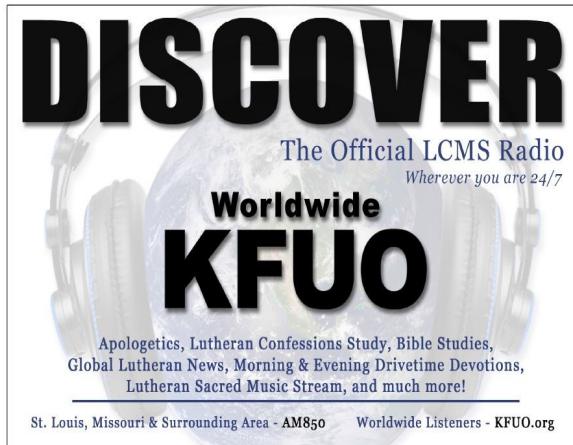
On Saturday, July 25th we were able to provide an in-person graduation event for our graduating 8th graders. Mrs. Runge, Mr. Benedict, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Jurica, and Pastor Ehrhard provided a memorable graduation experience for St. John's graduates and their parents.

The first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year is Monday, August 24th. We are planning for in-person instruction 5 days per week. As of this writing, 130 students are in the enrolled category with another 23 in the pending enrollment category. Enrollment in most grades is capped at 15 students to allow for social distancing. Kindergarten, First Grade and Fifth Grade are full. New family tours continue.

God Bless You All!

Dan Green
Principal





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUD

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

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 KFUD 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.





AUGUST

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHURCH WORKERS — AUGUST 1-15

Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

- 1.** with thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS, who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.
- 2.** for the Synod's pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.
- 3.** for the Synod's deaconesses. Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

4. that God would bless the work of directors of Christian education, as they develop educational ministries for children, youth, adults and families.

5. for the Synod's directors of Christian outreach, that God would guide their efforts to support a congregation's or organization's outreach and evangelism work.

6. for directors of family life ministry. Ask that God would guide their vital work to strengthen the families in our congregations.

7. for teachers and administrators in Lutheran schools, that they would model Christ-like behavior

for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

8. for directors of parish music, that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.

9. for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers, who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.

10. for missionaries, who leave home and family to work in faraway lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.

11. for those involved in Specialized Pastoral Ministry, who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis.

12. for military chaplains, who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.

13. for the health and well-being of all church workers, that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal.

14. with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.

15. with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers. These faithful men and women care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

AUGUST Pray For Us Calendar

THE CHURCH — AUGUST 16-31

"The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments" (Augsburg Confession VII).

Remember God's work through the Church as you pray:

16. with thanksgiving to God for raising up voices in every age and generation as He continues to call people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

17. that God would raise up in our own time faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of His people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith.

18. with thanksgiving that God does His bidding through unworthy and unlikely people. Pray that He would keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought and keep us focused on the proclamation of the Gospel.

19. that God would give us faith so that we may not fear in times of trouble nor fall away in times of prosperity.

20. for the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above to be given to us, so that

God's Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

21. that the Church would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.

22. for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and other institutions that prepare servants for the Church, that they would properly prepare men and women to serve God and His Church.

23. with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world.

24. for young people, that the Lord would lead them to serve Him and bless His people.

25. for us, that when we are tempted to focus on the things



of the world or on ourselves, God would direct our attention to His Word and will.

26. with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.

27. with thankful hearts to God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

28. that we would joyfully study the Sacred Scriptures as a light to our path and gratefully make



use of the Lutheran Confessions to help us understand and apply the Scriptures.

29. with thanksgiving for shepherds in the Church's history and pastors today, whom God uses to guide His flock.

30. that God would keep all Christians from being led astray by false teachings, and instead bring them to a deeper knowledge of Him.

31. that we all would be given a trust in the saving Gospel and a great passion to spread its joy with others in our lives.



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

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

**August 1st**

Stephanie Sanders

August 2nd

Laura Weith

August 3rdTimothy Fasshauer
Bonnie Mayrens**August 4th**

Linda Byall

August 5th

Elly Wichner

August 6th

George Tober

August 7th

Kieran Pavlat

August 10thClarissa Aleksiewicz
Kristopher Walk-Faust
Debra Fasshauer
Diane Lemon**August 10th**

Kristopher Walk-Faust

August 13thDonald Erber
Melissa Marchak**August 14th**Cheryl Eggert
Dolores Sillins
Linda Warnock**August 16th**

Barbara Leineweber

August 18th

John Gallo

August 20thJames Weimer
Dawn Wilczak**August 21st**

Karen Whitehead

August 22ndKathleen Deahl
Bette Heide**August 24th**

Missilou Walk-Faust

August 25thLana Bauer
Gretal Ehrhard**August 27th**Betty Carey
Hannah Straszynski**August 30th**

Frank Cho

August 31stRoss McLane
John Wolke

August 2020 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS



Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

<http://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

Winston Churchill reportedly said, "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?" to "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).