



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

August 2021 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."

Serving in the Lord's House

On August 14th from 8AM-12PM, I will host a day of training and planning for those who desire to serve in the Lord's house. During our Covid shutdown, I have taken over much of the preparations for weekly services and a few other folks have stepped in to make sure we were able to hold services for a year with constantly shifting practices. We've now come to a point where I believe we can intentionally and safely restore the unique services of our members. I even hope to expand on what we had in place before the epidemic began.

I'd like to divide this service into several domains. Hospitality will include greeters and ushers, who will be responsible for creating a welcoming atmosphere for members and guests. Altar guild will care for the sacred vessels and linens, as well as set for weekly communion. For the young men of the congregation, I want to assemble a corps of altar servers to assist with festival services as crucifers, torch bearers, and book bearers. To these three, I want to add volunteers to assist with the Catechumenate, which will be the comprehensive way of bringing in new members and reaching out to the community. Also, I want to establish a Congregational Care team, who will be responsible for reaching out to our sick, homebound, and inactive members. Finally, I am also looking for some fun and willing folks to plan for a more robust Life Together by planning social events and building our community.

I'm looking for energetic and committed people! If one or more of these areas interest you, please see me at church or drop me a line at pastor@stjohnschicago.org.

On August 14th, we'll begin with prayer and refresh ourselves with some donuts and coffee before getting to business. Hope to see you there!

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Ladies Book Club: In August The Ladies Book Club will be reading Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah. It is a story of two women's enduring friendship. The Book Club meets of the last Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to be included.



From the Principal: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile himself to all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” – Colossians 1:15-20 (ESV)

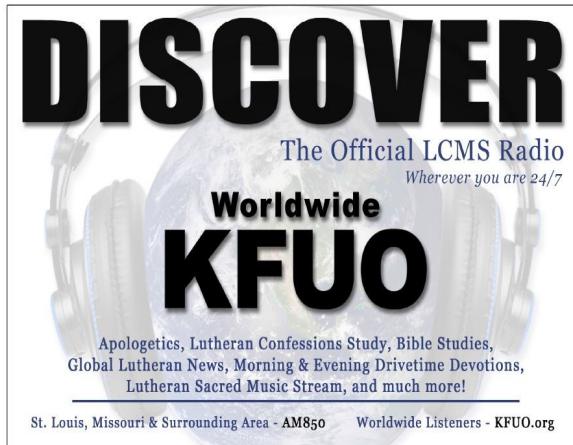
The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is “IN ALL THINGS”. It is based on the verse above. This verse points us back to Jesus, “the image of the invisible God, the head of the body, the church, the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.” Through the last year many of our schools, students, teachers, families have been all consumed with the coronavirus pandemic. And as I write this the virus seems to be surging once again. How easy it is to forget about Jesus! I am thankful that this verse was chosen. It will remind St. John’s Lutheran School, that despite the challenges ahead, we can refocus on our Lord Jesus.

The 2021-2022 school year begins on Monday, August 23rd. Continued coronavirus mitigations will be in place. While they are not yet finalized, one thing I can tell you is that face masks will be required at least for the first semester. I am asking that if you need to be in the school building when students are present that you also wear a face mask. Complete mitigations and protocols will be announced via the September Eagle.

As always, thank you for your continued support of St. John’s Lutheran School!

Principal Green





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUEO

Find and Listen at kfueo.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUEOradio.

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 KFUEO 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.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD



August Birthdays!

August 1st .. Stephanie Sanders
 August 2nd .. Laura Weith
 August 3rd .. Timothy Fasshauer
 Bonnie Mayrens
 August 4th .. Linda Byall
 August 6th .. George Tober
 August 7th .. Kieran Pavlat
 August 8th .. Clarissa Aleksiewicz
 August 10th .. Debbie Fasshauer
 Diane Lemon
 August 13th .. Donald Erber
 Melissa Marchak
 August 14th .. Cheryl Eggert
 Dolores Sillins
 Linda Warnock
 August 18th .. John Gallo
 August 20th .. James Weimer
 August 21st .. Karen Whitehead
 August 22nd .. Kathi Deahl
 Bette Heide
 August 24th .. Missy Walk-Faust
 August 25th .. Lana Bauer
 Gretal Ehrhard
 August 27th .. Betty Carey
 Hannah Straszynski
 August 30th .. Frank Cho
 August 31st .. Ross McLane
 Jack Wolke



August 2021 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>

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.