



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

August 2022 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."

From the Pastor: Deliberating a Call

On Wednesday, July 27th, I officially returned the call to be Director of Church Relations at Concordia University Chicago. Since my first call to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight, IL, I have had the opportunity to deliberate five different calls. Each was difficult in its own way, and this one was no different.

One of the reasons why I submitted an application for this position and allowed my name to stand for the final consideration for a call is because I had begun to question whether my task at St. John's was simply to shepherd this congregation through the challenges of Covid and then turn it over to someone else to begin afresh. This call allowed me to address that question head on and your feedback helped me to answer that question. I still have work to do at St. John's as Covid has become a part of our lives and we press forward into what comes next.

Part of deliberating a call also means evaluating your present call. As I think about my future at St. John's, I can now also think about it as a *renewed* call. There are some projects that I've put on hold during the Covid interruption that I want to take back up again. You may see some aesthetic changes as I also try to visually indicate that we are moving into something new at St. John's. Other changes may be less visible, but I believe that they will contribute to the ongoing future health of St. John's as an organization.

Thank you once again to all who offered reflections, feedback, and encouragement during the past several weeks. I'm happy to continue serving at St. John's and seeing how the Lord continues to bless us in surprising ways.

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



From the
Pastor's
Desk

Ladies Book Club: In August, the Ladies Book Club will be reading One Italian Summer by Rebecca Serle. This easy beach read explores the powerful bond between a mother and daughter set on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. It explores our relationships and how we move on from loss. The Ladies Book Club still meets via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to be included.



From the Principal: The 2022-2023 school year will begin on August 22nd with a full day of the school. The theme for this year is “Making Disciples for Life” based on Matthew 28:18-20 which reads, **“And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

School improvements that are aligned to the NLSA Accreditation Visitation Team Report are being implemented. We have replaced all of the classroom SMART Boards with SMART Televisions. This technology upgrade will allow teachers to improve classroom instruction. The televisions were acquired at no cost to St. John’s as they were paid for using Title funds.

There is a new Social Studies Curriculum in place for the 2022-2023 school year. A purchase of the Savvas – My World Social Studies Curriculum was made. This curriculum is fully aligned to Illinois State Board of Education Standards. This purchase was made using Education Fees that are paid by St. John’s students and also supplemented by the HK School Endowment Fund.

St. John’s has purchased a Social Emotional Learning Curriculum. The name of the curriculum is “Friendzy”. It is Biblically based curriculum and is aligned to LCMS doctrinal standards. The curriculum was purchased using funds from the HK School Endowment Fund and from a grant provided by the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation.

I am blessed to have a team of teachers that assisted with the above projects. Mrs. Franklin worked with CLEF’s Title Funds coordinator to purchase the televisions. She and Mr. Benedict installed them over the summer. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Gahgan, and Mrs. Rocans served on the Social Studies Curriculum Review Team with me. Also assisting on this committee was CLEF’s instructional coach Kriste Humer. Mrs. Yerkes, Mrs. Schuemer, Mrs. Yamate served with me on the Social Emotional Learning Committee.

Regarding Covid 19 – At this time St. John’s will remain mask recommended for students, teachers and visitors. I will also encourage vaccines for students. Teachers are fully vaccinated and I will recommend boosters for those who are eligible. I will begin to cautiously allow outside instructors to offer after school club activities. These instructors must provide proof of vaccination and also follow St. John’s Personnel Policies.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Principal Green



Join the University Band of Concordia- Chicago

Concordia-Chicago's University Band is looking for additional musicians. Membership is open to adult instrumentalists from the Chicago area.

The University Band comprises residents from surrounding communities as well as Concordia University Chicago students, faculty and staff.

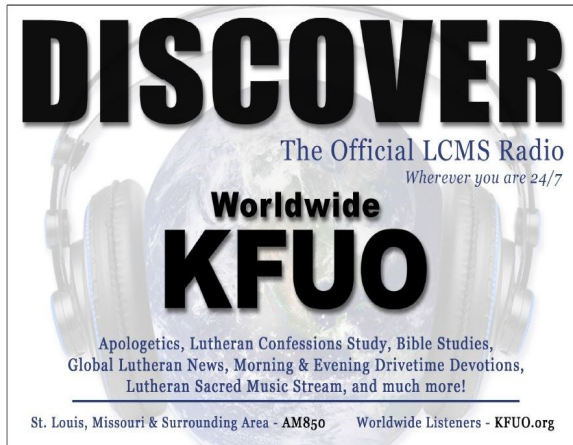
The ensemble rehearses on Thursday evenings beginning September 1 on the University's campus in River Forest and performs four festive concerts each year.

To arrange an audition, contact conductor Dr. Richard Fischer at 708-227-2200 or richard.fischer@CUChicago.edu.



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**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO**



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.





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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST!

- 1 – Ethan Gomez, Stephanie Gustafson
- 2–Joshua Friend, Laura Weith
- 3–Timothy Fasshauer, Bonnie Mayrens
- 4– Linda Byall
- 6– George Tober
- 7–Victor Castro, Kieran Pavlat
- 8–Zoe Woods
- 10–Clarissa Aleksiewicz, Diane Lemon
- 13–Donald Erber, Melissa Marchak
- 14–Cheryl Eggert, Dolores Sillins, Clay Turrentine, Linda Warnock
- 15–Gabriel Cho
- 16–Barbara Leineweber
- 20–Linda Shay
- 21–Karen Whitehead
- 22–Kathi Deahl, Bette Heide
- 23–Mia Cady
- 24–Missi Walk-Faust
- 25–Lana Bauer, Gretal Ehrhard
- 27–Betty Carey
- 29–Teagan Yerkes
- 30–Frank Cho
- 31–Ross McLane, Mitchell Wichner, Jack Wolke



August 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.