



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

December 2021 Eagle Newsletter



The Miracle of Christmas

Matthew 1:20-21

²⁰ "...that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Holiday Schedule:

Wednesday, December 1st at 7PM: Grades 5-8 Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 8th at 7PM: Grades 1-4 Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 15th at 7PM: PS, PK, K Christmas Program

December 24th at 4:30PM and 11PM: Christmas Eve Services

December 25th at 9:30AM: Christmas Day Service

December 26th at 9:30AM: One Single Sunday Christmas 1 Service

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be midweek Services at 4:30PM.



Ladies Book Club: In December The Ladies Book Club will be reading The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. This work of historical fiction is based on a female spy network operating during WWI. It has two separate plots and storylines that race over continents and decades and eventually converge into an explosive ending. The Ladies Book Club is still meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM via ZOOM. If you would like to join us please contact Betty Carey.



From the Principal: A faculty committee developed a year-long school-wide memory list for St. John's students. The verse is used for weekly memory assignments adapted to the students' grade level. The students also recite the verse during weekly chapel services. The verses for the first three weeks of December are listed below.

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:36 (Week of 11/29)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (Week of 12/06)

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." Luke 2:10 (Week of 12/13)

Consider joining us in memorizing the above verses!

St. John's students will once again be presenting Christmas programs throughout the month of December. All the programs start at 7:00PM.

Wednesday, December 1st – Grades 5-8

Wednesday, December 8th – Grades 1-4

Wednesday, December 15th – PS, PK, K

I pray that God continues to bless you during this holiday season. ***And as always, thank you for your continued support of St. John's Lutheran School!***

Principal Green

Music News: Thank you to the Chancel Bell Ringers for playing on Reformation Day. We plan on playing for a Christmas Eve worship service, playing some favorite Christmas Carols.

Poinsettias

In order to enhance the beauty of the chancel for Christmas, Poinsettia orders are now being taken. These plants will be delivered to church, placed in the chancel, and may be picked up after the last service on Christmas morning.
(Plants may be picked up the following week in the office.)

The cost of one plant is \$15.00. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it to the office or the Altar Guild window in the narthex.

Given by: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 In Honor of: _____
 Will pick up: yes ____ no ____
 Phone # _____
 Paid? ____yes ____Cash ____Check # _____



St. John's has a new mobile giving app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play by searching for Vanco Mobile. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method, and complete the donation. **The old GivePlus app will be retired at the end of the year.** If you use GivePlus, please make sure to update today. Alternatively, you can give through the myvanco webpage app by scanning the code printed here.



St. John's Clothing Box Locations

Currently St. John's has 20 Clothing boxes in the Chicagoland area. Donations of clothing, purses, shoes/boots, and linens may be placed in any of these boxes. Proceeds from every box support St. John's General Fund in addition to their designated funds.

Clothing Box Locations		Where proceeds are allocated
7-Eleven	4346 N. Kimball	St. John's Agape Fund
Bethel Community Church	7601 W. Foster	Awana Club
Boston Market	3020 N. Ashland	St. John's Agape Fund
Christian Fellowship Flock	2435 W. Division	St. John's Agape Fund
Concordia Lutheran Church	2649 W. Belmont	Concordia Church
El Asadero Colombiano	5614 W Lawrence	St. John's Agape Fund
Elston Plaza	5097 N Elston	St. John's Agape Fund
Family in Faith	1480 Bloomingdale	Family in Faith
Foster-Elston Auto Repair	5157 N Elston	St. John's Agape Fund
Grace English	2725 N Laramie	Grace English
Jeff's Red Hots	3901 N Cicero	St. John's Altar Guild
Jehovah-El Buen Pastor	3740 W Belden	Jehovah
Messiah Lutheran	6200 W. Addison	Messiah Church
Montrose Deli Inc.	5406 W Montrose	St. John's Family Tuition
Mount Olive Church	3850 N Tripp	Mount Olive VBS
Our Saviour Lutheran	7151 W Cornelia	Our Saviour Church
St. John's Lutheran	4939 W. Montrose	St. John's Church/School
St. Paul Lutheran	846 N Menard	St. Paul Church
St. Philip Lutheran	2500 W Bryn Mawr	St. John's Music Department
Wendy's	2053 W Lawrence	St. John's Agape Fund
Wendy's	5472 N Harlem	St. John's Agape Fund
Women's Center	5116 N Cicero	Women's Center

If you know of a location that a Clothing Box could be placed, please visit:

https://www.stjohnschicago.school/uploads/1/2/8/1/128199706/clothing_box_flyer-st_johns_2021.pdf



Two Ways to Give this Holiday Season

You may make a financial donation to our *Joined Hands Food Pantry* to help our neighbors during the Christmas season.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/thanksgiving-togo-2021>

- OR -

St. Cyprian's



You

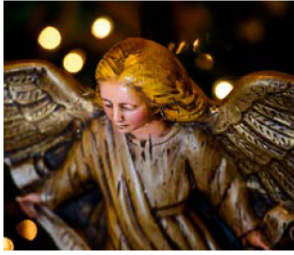
Food Collection Holiday Needs

- ❖ Chicken Broth
- ❖ Stuffing
- ❖ Instant Mashed Potatoes
- ❖ Canned Vegetables
- ❖ Cake Mixes and Frosting and Boxed Desserts
- ❖ Canned Yams
- ❖ Jell-O and Instant Pudding
- ❖ Gravy
- ❖ Packaged Corn Bread or Bread Mixes
- ❖ Cream of Mushroom Soup
- ❖ Cranberry Sauce

St. Cyprians Food Pantry is collecting these items from November 1, 2021 until December 17, 2021.

St. Cyprian's Food Pantry

6535 W. Irving Park Road / 773-283-9178



DECEMBER

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

ADVENT: THE SECOND COMING — DECEMBER 1-15

Advent means coming. We anticipate the promised return of Christ as the judge of the world. We look with hope to the day of the resurrection of all flesh, when those who believe in Christ will rise to everlasting life.

The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray "Lord, have mercy."

1. For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus. Pray that God's people would be eager to show forth the love of God through their good works for their neighbor.

2. That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ's return.

3. That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God

strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

4. That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.

5. For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.

6. For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ's return.

7. For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

8. For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

9. for the Church's missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

10. For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

11. For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

12. For patience, as we wait for Christ's coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

13. For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

14. For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

15. For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD

DECEMBER Pray For Us Calendar

ADVENT: THE INCARNATION — DECEMBER 16-31

During Advent we rejoice that God sent His Son to be the redeemer of the world. We gather with all Christians to celebrate this gracious gift from our heavenly Father. We trust in Christ alone as our Savior.

The Church gathers to thank God and ask for faith to trust in His gift of a Savior. For the following, we pray "Lord, have mercy."

16. For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior.

17. For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.

18. That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.

19. For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.

20. That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.

21. For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.

22. For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

23. For pastors who serve as Christ's under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.

24. Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.

25. Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten of God.

26. Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian



Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

27. That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.

28. For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God's gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.

29. For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.

30. That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world's salvation.

31. That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that is done and proclaimed.

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

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD



December 1st

Alexander Sobiek, Katie Van Tilburg

December 2nd

Kent Faust, Kyla McLemore

December 5th

Valentine Peters

December 8th

Judith Knueppel, Lisa O'Hara,
Lori Pahlke, Amanda Yamate

December 10th

Cheryl Fasshauer, Debbie O'Connor

December 11th

George Bowman

December 12th

Anita Roderich

December 17th

William Brackett, Susan Green

December 19th

Robert Deahl

December 23rd

Caleb Bohus

December 24th

Henry Knueppel, Margie Walk-Faust

December 25th

Decker Clemente

December 26th

Patricia Eggert

December 27th

Alexander Diaz, Emily Diaz

December 30th

Larry Fasshauer

December 31st

Bradley Eggert

Stewardship Under the Cross, God's Word on How We Use His Gifts

by HR Curtis

Overcoming the Fear of Tithing

Your heart will always go where you put God's money.

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. As the hymn verse has it: We give Thee but Thine own. God is the ultimate giver of our incomes: all these gifts come from him. To acknowledge this gift and our dependence on the Lord, God calls us to give a portion of our income back to Him for the maintenance of His Church. Indeed, the Scriptures are very clear: God calls His people to give at least a tithe of their income (10% of whatever "comes in") back to Him at their place of worship.

This calls for faith. Do we trust God's Word? Do we trust that what He says is for our benefit, not our harm? **If you have never tithed before, it can be a scary proposition.** *Give 10% of my income away!?* *You've got to be kidding.* But God doesn't ever kid us in His Word. Instead, He tells us how to live holy and blessed lives full of peace and contentment. Consider these Scriptures:

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it " (Malachi 3:8-10).

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper (1 Corinthians 16:2).

But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we *do* make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

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God will never tell us to do something that will be to our harm – He loves us too much for that. Jesus gave His life on the cross for me. He loves me and knows what is best for me – so I can know that what He says about stewardship is meant for my benefit. He wants my heart to be with Him – and my heart will always follow where I put God's money. **Tithing is not easy: it is godly. It will change your life.** Stepping out in faith always does. You may have to change your lifestyle to accommodate following God's Word in this matter. But tithing will change your life in other ways too: it will give you a peace and contentment that can only come from actually putting yourself in the hands of the Lord.

So read through those Scriptures again. Pray through the questions on the next page. And step out in faith this year with giving that is in accord with God's Word. And just see if you are not blessed in it.

