



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

February 2020 Eagle Newsletter



Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

From the Pastor

Reflections on Graduate School at Concordia Seminary

In 2017 I began a graduate program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. It has been an opportunity not only to revisit the classroom, but also to engage with some of the most current scholarship and conversations concerning the Christian faith. The world is changing at a rapid pace, and the church is struggling to keep up. This is true not only of our own Lutheran tradition, but also for the faithful across the spectrum of Christian confessions.

There are two aspects of graduate study that I feel help to equip me for better service in the church. The first is that our readings, reflections, and research engage Christian thinking across traditions. Second, our graduate cohort is composed of pastors and theologians from across the globe and from a variety of different cultures and contexts.

Unlike the basic training for Lutheran pastors, which is designed to give a comprehensive education from within the Lutheran tradition, the graduate school looks to engage with theology from all corners of the Christian Church. From the sacramental imagination of the Catholic Church to aesthetic reflections from Dutch neo-calvinists to a Nazarene argument for narrative preaching, the Ph.D. program critically evaluates theological positions to accurately articulate their positions without mischaracterizations, to see where we agree, where we can learn, and where we disagree with other Christian thinkers.

An unexpected benefit of graduate studies has been exposure to Lutherans from across the globe. For instance, my courses have featured colleagues from Ethiopia, Brazil, Cuba, Hong Kong, Japan. I have studied side by side with missionaries and teachers and parish pastors. The wide variety of cultures and contexts help to accent different aspects of theology and sometimes highlights blind spots in my own thinking about theology.

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

What's Up in Worship?

Sequences and Gospels

We have been observing the chief festivals of the life of Christ (15 of them throughout the year) with a procession at the beginning and end of the service, and a procession to the center of the Church for the reading of the Holy Gospel. This ceremony has two purposes: first, it sets the Holy Gospel apart from the rest of the service as the high point of the Service of the Word; second, it indicates that Christ is in the midst of His people to deliver His words of grace and reconciliation. These extra ceremonies help to distinguish the significant events of the life of Christ and their importance for us in worship in our day.

While the regular service has an Alleluia and Verse preceding the Gospel, my experience over the last year has shown that this leaves a little silent time during a Gospel procession. For this reason, I've decided to introduce the tradition of a *Sequence Hymn for Sundays with a Gospel procession*.

A Sequence Hymn is a hymn sung during movement in the service. Sequence Hymns were published in supplemental materials for *The Lutheran Hymnal (The Graduals for the Church Year, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1944)*. There are different Sequence Hymns for different occasions, many of which are probably already familiar to you:

Christmas: Of the Father's Love Begotten (LSB 384)

Easter: Christ Is Arisen (LSB 459)

Pentecost: Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest (LSB 498, 499)

Lent: The Royal Banners Forward Go (LSB 455)

Lord's Supper: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (LSB 621)

In addition to keeping an eye out for these Sequence Hymns, look for a new Book of Gospels. A Book of Gospels is produced to facilitate the reading of the Gospel in procession. It is often larger than other Bibles and contains only Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

We have a new Book of Gospels printed in our translation. It is a striking book with an elegant cloth cover and decorated with paintings from Japanese artists and faithful Christian Makoto Fujimura. Not only will it be a liturgical addition to our congregation, but it will also join the other works of art that can be found in our church.

Pastor Ehrhard





Generosity Sunday With SUPER BOWL SUBS

Sunday, February 2, 2020

One Service at 9:30a.m.

Lunch and presentation immediately
following the service in the gym.

Benefitting the Youth of St. John's and PTL

Please join us for lunch and a generosity presentation from Pastor Ehrhard. The Youth of St. John's will be selling sub sandwiches and chips. PTL will be providing drinks, coffee and assorted pastries.

Please order your sandwiches with this form in advance. Your order with payment must be either brought to church on Sunday, January 26th or to the church/school office by Thursday, January 30th. Make checks payable to St. John's Youth Group. Please contact Kathi Deahl at kathi.reardon.deahl@gmail.com or 312-217-1219.

ORDER FORM

6-inch sub with two meats and one cheese \$5.00

Each sub sandwich included dressing and chips

Choose from the following:

Meats:

☐ Salami

☐ Ham

☐ Turkey

(You can double one meat if you don't want two)

Cheeses:

☐ American

☐ Swiss

Garnishes:

☐ Lettuce

☐ Tomato

☐ Pickles

☐ Onions

(will be on the side)

Total number of sandwiches _____ Total enclosed _____

Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Worship Schedule:

The congregation is asked to consider the following:

- How would God, by the work of His Spirit, cause St. John's to grow using only one morning service?
- How would God, by the work of His Spirit, cause St. John's to grow using two morning services?
- Does God ever will a local congregation to reduce in size?
- Does God measure growth in ways other than numerical statistics?

Members can communicate their thoughts on these questions to their elders (listed below and in the parlor stairwell). At the May Voters meeting the Elders will present their findings and the congregation may choose to modify the worship schedule going forward.

Elders List:

- Last Name A-B = Timothy Eischen | eischentim@aol.com | 312.618.6085
- Last Name C-F = Aaron Doering | aaronmosesbro@gmail.com | 312.479.0767
- Last Name G-J = Doug Markworth | douglas.markworth77@gmail.com | 773.505.3296
- Last Name K-Ma = Doug McLane | mcutec007@gmail.com | 773.899.0036
- Last Name Mc-Q = Terry Dunn | mhdunn@sbcglobal.net | 773.507.4450
- Last Name R-St = Matt Pahnke | mattpahnke@gmail.com | 630.903.9100
- Last Name Su-Z = Adam Neubauer | neubauer.adam@gmail.com | 815.793.5743



Schroeder Charitable Trust:

The Henry Knueppel School Endowment was the recent recipient of a bequest from the Schroeder Charitable Trust in the amount of \$25,000. The Trust was set up by Bill and Alberta as a memorial to Bill's parents who were long-time members of St. John's until they moved to Vale, Oregon in 1953. Bill graduated from our school about 1942 and in 1950 was married to Alberta Kolb at St. John's by Pastor Blanke. The letter addressed to Knueppel states, "Bill and his parents were blessed being members/student of St. John's Church and School. We ask God's grace, peace and blessings upon you and the church and school you represent."

This gift will be invested with the current HK School Endowment funds allowing its growth and annual use for its constitutional purpose: assist with student AGAPE funds, assist with the purchase of innovative educational items and the gifting of appreciation to our full-time teachers. Considering the annual growth and the variety of interest rates, a total of about \$240,000.00, or a yearly average of \$14,000.00, has been dispersed to these causes over the past 17 years of its existence.

Encouragement is given to St. John's members and friends to leave a legacy to St. John's so God's design through His church will continue long into the future. The HK School Endowment is a good example of what an endowment can do. If interested in how to leave a legacy through your Last Will or through a Charitable Trust, contact the church office at 773-736-1112.

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, February 25th at 7PM in the St. John's Conference Room. We will be discussing The President is Missing by James Patterson and Bill Clinton. It is a suspense thriller with many plots and subplots. We will also be compiling a list of books for next year. If you have a favorite that you would like to recommend, please come and join us for some good treats and good conversation.



From the Principal: St. John's School has a bulletin board outside the school office that indicates students and staff who have birthdays during the month. Students and staff are recognized in chapel when their birthday falls on a chapel day. There is a very important member of the St. John's family that celebrated a milestone birthday on December 24th. How appropriate that Mr. Knueppel's birthday is on Christmas Eve when some families exchange Christmas gifts. Henry Knueppel is truly a gift to St. John's! I am constantly amazed by how much he does, from refereeing basketball games to sprucing up the building and grounds. I am in awe of the amount of money given in support of the school through the Henry Knueppel School Endowment Fund. Happy 90th birthday Mr. Knueppel! May God bless you with many more!

St. John's will kick off enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year on February 10th with the reenrollment dinner. If you have school age children, I invite you to enroll your children at St. John's. I also ask that you refer families who have school age children to explore what St. John's has to offer. About 80% of the families visit St. John's came as a result of referrals.

Please visit the St. John's website. It has been redesigned. School activities are posted on a regular basis. St. John's is also taking advantage of Facebook. New items are posted weekly. Like and share the posts with your Facebook friends. St. John's BOCE regularly posts items on the Six Corners Association website as well as Alderman Gardiner's website.

Girl Scout Cookies are Here! St. John's Lutheran Girl Scout Troop 20010 will sell cookies at Coffee Hour on February 23rd between Church Services. Boxes are \$5 each. You can donate a box to our Troops too! Ask a Scout about Gifts of Caring. Support our Girl Scout Troop and get your cookies!



Calling all cooks!

To enter the

St John's



Please sign up no later than Feb. 14 to participate. The Chili Cook Off is on Sunday, March 1 at 1 PM. There will be more details coming soon.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A49A4AD29A4FE3-chili>

Chili Cook-Off: St John's Lutheran PTL is hosting our 1st Chili Cook-Off on March 1st. Please use the link below if you are interested in making chili for this event. Sign ups must be in by February 14th. More details to follow.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A49A4AD29A4FE3-chili>



SCHOOL TOUR TUESDAYS

St John's Lutheran School

PreK 3 through 8th grade

**Our doors are open from
9am to 3pm**

4939 W Montrose, Chicago, IL 60641

Phone: (773) 736-1196

Email: office@stjohnschicago.org

ST. JOHN'S SUMMER CAMP

AGES 3-12

6/15/20-8/14/20

9 WEEKS OF CAMP WITH
MULTIPLE ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

9AM-3PM

WITH EXTENDED CARE HOURS
FROM 7:00AM TO 6:00PM AT
NO ADDITIONAL COSTS

REGISTRATION CLOSES
MAY 4TH

FOR COMPLETE DETAILS
AND REGISTRATION FORMS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

SUMMERCAMP@STJOHNSCHICAGO.ORG

4939 W. MONTROSE AVE.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Daily Water Activities
Weekly Field Trips
Arts and Crafts
Sports and Games
Outdoor Fun



PARTY

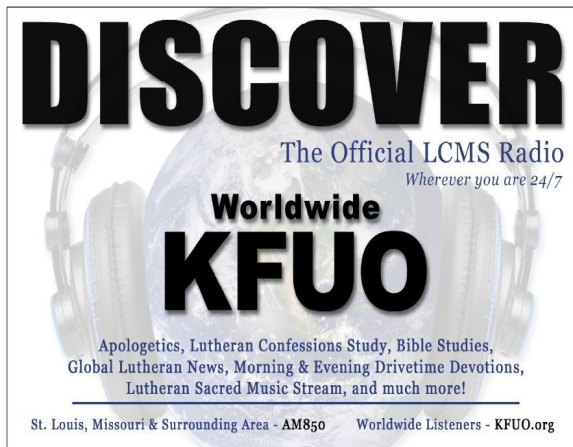
Reserve Space for Your Next Event at St. John's!!

We host birthday parties, ladies' nights, rehearsal dinners, sports events, family get togethers, and more with access to:

- Ellinger Hall
- Fellowship Hall
- Gym
- Bowling Alley

Inquire in the front office about special rates for St. John's Families!

773.736.1196
office@stjohnschicago.org



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.





FEBRUARY

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES — FEBRUARY 1-29

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God," Jesus says in Luke 18:16. God wants all His children to have faith in Him, yet sin and brokenness permeate the lives of His people. Children are orphaned, and families are ripped apart. Over the years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has reached out to care for God's precious children through the mercy ministries of congregations, missionaries and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs).

Remember God's love and will for children and families as you pray:

1. *for all Christians*, that they would help and defend the orphan and widow, the poor and lonely, the helpless and oppressed.

2. The purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord: *for mothers*, that they might rejoice in their vocation and raise their children in the Lord.

3. *for adoption and foster-care agency workers*, that they would make good and right decisions concerning what is best for all involved — enabling them to find proper families and resources to

meet the needs of the children they serve.

4. *for all children*, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God's Word.

5. Jacob (Israel), Patriarch, thank God for Jacob, through whom came the promise of the Messiah and the 12 tribes of Israel: *for fathers*, that they might raise their children in the Word.

6. *for men as they grow up*, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.

7. *for orphanages around the world*, that they might receive

proper funding, food, resources and godly caregivers so that they can provide the best care possible to the children entrusted to them.

8. *for orphanage workers*, that they might be refreshed by Your Word and be good role models and teachers as they provide loving care to those in their charge.

9. *for all orphans*, that they might find Christian families who will nurture them with the love and knowledge of Christ.

10. Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul, thank God for Silas, lesser known, but essential to the work of the Kingdom: *for all church workers*, that all might work as God calls them to serve Him.

11. *for all foster children*, that they might find peace among the chaos as they wait for a proper family to be established.

12. *for all who suffer from domestic violence*, that the Lord would deliver them from danger and comfort them with His peace and forgiveness.

13. Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos, thank God for these examples of earnest learning and meditation in the Word of God.

14. Valentine, Martyr, pray that the love of Christ might be the love celebrated above all loves.

15. Philemon and Onesimus: *for all Christian workers and those in authority*, that all might serve God in their vocations.

16. Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melanchthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.

17. *for all caregivers*, that they might raise children in the truth faith.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD

FEBRUARY Pray For Us Calendar

18. Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.

19. *for children and parents who are deaf*, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.

20. *for widows*, that they might know Christ as their faithful bridegroom who will supply for their needs as they live their lives in prayer and purity.

21. *for the homeless*, that they might find a warm and safe place to lay their head, food for their bellies, hope for the future and rest in the love of Christ.

22. *for the unemployed*, that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.

23. Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel.

24. St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.

25. *for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.

26. *for children who are missing*, that the Lord would keep them from danger, restore them to their families and give them His peace and protection.

27. *for peace among siblings*, that the Lord would help them love and support each other throughout their lives, instead of being divided by bickering and jealousy.

28. *for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.

29. *for families*, that they might attend worship to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments.



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. LINSFORD

February 3rd

David Lyons

February 4thIngrid Solomon
Michael Thompson**February 5th**

Cheryl Margentina

February 6th

James Zink

February 7thMichael Glasscock
Nolan Keaton**February 10th**Walter Flechsig
Jack Kraak
Faith Spike**February 13th**

George Marcum

February 14th

Amy Hiller

February 15th

Judy Weimer

February 17th

Diane Jensen

February 18th

Melissa Brackett

February 21stPatricia Jannusch
Dorothy Schneider**February 23rd**

Kim Wilson

February 25thBrian Bowman
Adam Neubauer**February 26th**Barbara Banks
Marie Salyers**February 28th**Sandra Anhalt
Michael Banko
Robert Kraak
Larry Pahlke

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

by HR Curtis

Putting It All Together



Over the past several months we have set out as a congregation to learn what God's Word has to say about stewardship. One thing we learned is that faithful stewardship is a lifestyle. So here is a review of God's Word for you to study with the year ahead in mind. No matter where you are at in your stewardship – tithing, going beyond a tithe, or still considering the concept of tithing – let this study lead you to think about pray about stewardship based on the Word.

Your heart will always go where you put God's money. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and as we sing each Sunday morning at the Offering: 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. ²⁰But 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. ⁹You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring 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.

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 following questions 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.

(continued on next page)

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The Lord loves me and gave Himself for me on the cross.

Y or N

All that I have comes from the Lord.

Y or N

The Lord blessed me to live in the richest land in the world.

Y or N

If I had to start living on 90% of my current income tomorrow, I or someone in my family would starve.

Y or N

I / We have been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart.

Y or N

If "Yes", the Lord gets all the glory for that.

Y or N

If "No", the Lord wants me to change the way I make money offerings to him.

Y or N

If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later.

Y or N

It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ that changes me for the better.

Y or N

