



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

February 2022 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

Introducing the Catechumenate: Rites of Enrollment

One of the distinctive elements of the catechumenate is that its times of growth and learning are punctuated by rituals indicating passage from one time to the next. Typically, the rites that have accompanied catechesis have been confirmation (and baptism if necessary) at the completion of catechetical training (accompanied by the gift of offering envelopes!). But the Rites of Enrollment is a ritual demarcation at the *beginning* of the catechumenate. These rites include promises from the inquirers that they will be diligent in their study of God's Word. During the Rites of Enrollment, sponsors also pledge to walk alongside of the catechumens in their journey of faith. Above all, the entire congregation takes part in prayers of encouragement for those who are beginning a more intentional life in Christ.

As we begin to adopt the rhythm of the catechumenate, I am going to conduct a Rite of Enrollment of sponsors for the entire congregation on Sunday, February 27th. This will indicate two things. First, it is the formal beginning of our catechumenate, which will be on Sundays during our Bible study hour beginning March 6th. Second, it will indicate that *every member of St. John's* participates in the catechumenate and is a potential sponsor for new Christians.

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



From the
Pastor's
Desk

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Members of Thrivent Financial - The deadline for directing your "Choice Dollars" is approaching soon. All you have to do is call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. Have ready your Social Security number. You can listen to the charitable institutions you can contribute your *free money* to or just contribute them to your church and/or school here on Montrose in Chicago. You can also use a computer to direct your free money by going to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Be a good steward of the money you can donate. March 31st is the deadline for 2021 so do it today so you don't forget. Thank you.

Ladies Book Club: In February The Ladies Book Club will be reading Her Last Flight by Beatriz Williams. It is the story of a lost pilot and wartime photographer that is loosely based on Amelia Earhart. The plot has a lot of twists and turns which will keep your interest throughout. We will meet again on the last Tuesday of February via ZOOM at 7:30PM. If you have any suggestions for future books please submit them to Betty Carey. We are compiling a list now for the next 12 months.



JEHOVAH EL BUEN PASTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

presents



Tea and Pipes

A HYMN SING OF YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS

3740 W. BELDEN CHICAGO, IL 60647

FEBRUARY 27TH @3PM

Donate:

\$10 for 1st & last verse

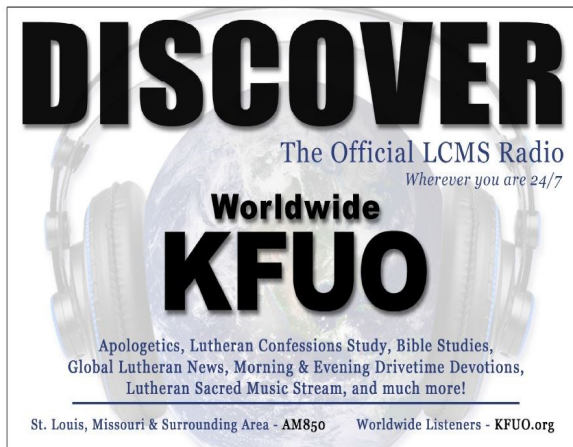
\$15 for All verses

A fundraiser for the
maintenance of our pipe organ



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USE THE QR CODE!





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 15th

Judy Weimer

February 4th

Ingrid Solomon & Lani Wo

February 17th

Diane Jensen

February 5th

Cheryl Margentina

February 18th

Melissa Brackett

February 6th

James Zink

February 21st

Patricia Jannusch & Dorothy Schneider

February 7th

Michael Glasscock

February 23rd

Kim Wilson

February 9th

Stefan Smallfield

February 25th

Brian Bowman, Adam Neubauer, Kyle Walk-Faust

February 10th

Walter Flechsig & Jack Kraak

February 26th

Barbara Banks & Marie Salyers

February 14th

Kristina Kelly

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.

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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

