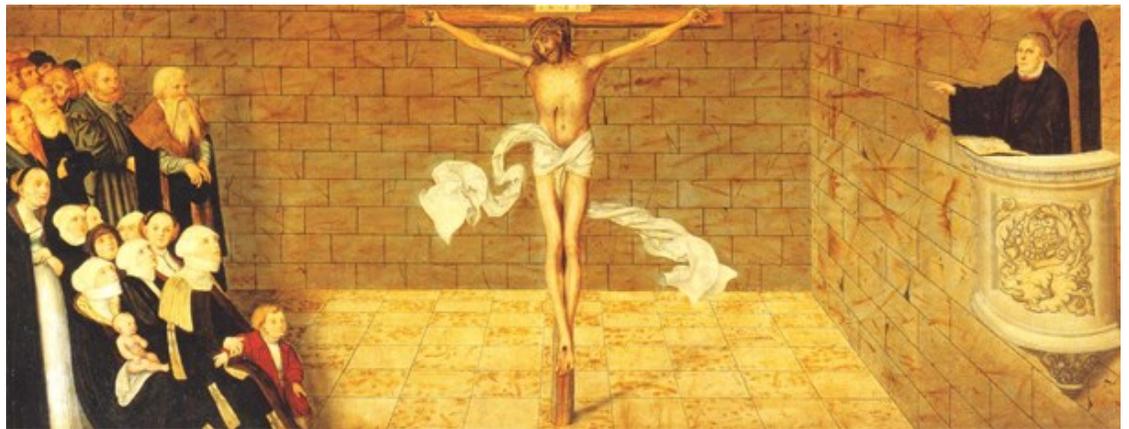




**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church  
& School

**February 2023**  
**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, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## From the Pastor

### Real Presence

This spring I want to focus on presence. Presence is important for a variety of reasons, but for us as Christians, presence is important because God is a present God. "Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away?" (Jeremiah 23:23). But how is God present?

One of the major debates during the Reformation was over the presence of Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. This debate has a long history in the Christian Church, and it continues to be a major point of disagreement and division in the Church today. By revisiting the way the Lutheran reformers dealt with the presence of Christ's body and blood, we can not only strengthen our faith in what Jesus gives in His Supper, but we can also learn more about why our presence is important.

I'll begin with the teaching of transubstantiation. Most Lutherans know that transubstantiation is the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, and that Lutherans reject it. But why? Transubstantiation is a way of describing the presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Sacrament in a philosophical way.

Greek philosophy tended to make a distinction between substance and accidents. The substance of a thing is its essence, and it cannot change without destroying what the thing is. Accidents are properties that can change without changing what the thing is. The substance of a thing is difficult to identify, observe, or measure. Accidents are things like color, temperature, material, etc.

Transubstantiation teaches that, at the moment of consecration, the substances of bread and wine change into the substances of body and blood. The accidents, however, remain unchanged. So the bread still digests and the wine can still make you drunk if you drink too much of it.

In *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, Martin Luther listed transubstantiation as one of the abuses of the sacrament. He argued that philosophy cannot adequately describe the realities created by God's Word. Taken to its logical conclusion, the bread would cease to really exist. However, Luther also said that this was the least offensive of the three abuses because it did not strike at the heart of the Gospel and it at least maintained the presence of body and blood in the bread and wine.

Unfortunately, many reacted to the teaching of transubstantiation to the opposite extreme and said that the bread remains only bread and the wine only wine. They are simply symbolic of Christ's body and blood, which are truly and really absent. Soon, the controversy would spread through the entire Western Christian world.

Over the coming months, I'll continue to examine different parts of the Lutheran teaching on Christ's presence in the sacrament, drawn from Scripture and based on Jesus' own words, "This is my body." Next time: Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli and the Marburg Colloquy.

In Christ,  
under the cross,  
Pastor Ehrhard



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

**From the Principal:** The winter session of the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) scores was completed in January. The school composite percentile scores are listed below. Scores declined from the fall results. This is not uncommon and they usually rebound in the spring. CLEF Instructional Coach, Amy Columbus will review the scores with the teachers in the coming weeks.

Math = 62<sup>nd</sup> Percentile | Reading = 59<sup>th</sup> Percentile | Language Usage = 61<sup>st</sup> Percentile | Science = 63<sup>rd</sup> Percentile



St. John's celebrated Lutheran Schools Week from January 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 29<sup>th</sup>. There were many different activities, service events and dress up days during the week. We also welcomed back V.I.P. Day after a two-year hiatus. The school week ended with an all school chapel that included the students' invited VIPs. You can see a picture of the Divine Service to begin Lutheran Schools week with the new paraments compared to an old picture of the sanctuary.

One of St. John's core values is **Love!** One third of the school wide memory verses feature **Love** as a theme. St. John's uses these verses to assist the children as they learn about **Love** and put **Love** into practice.

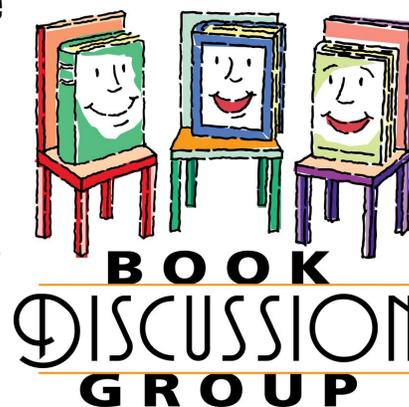
*"A new command I give you: love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another." – John 13:34*

*Thank you for your prayers and support!*

Principal Green



**Ladies Book Club:** In February the Ladies Book Club will be reading The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream by Dean Jobb. This true crime story tracks a serial killer through Canada, Chicago, and London in the late nineteenth century by Scotland Yard. At this time new tools like forensics were just coming into use. This book details how flawed investigations, corrupt officials, and the stifling morality of Victorian society allowed Dr. Cream to prey on vulnerable and desperate women as a physician. 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 join us. We will be compiling a list of new books for the coming year. If you have any suggestions you can send them to Betty as well.

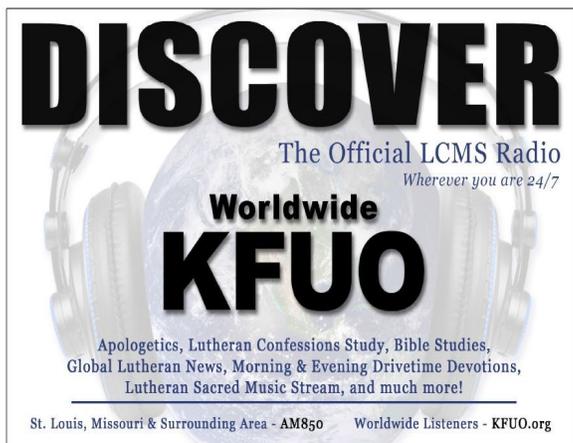


**Volunteers in Action:** Many, many thanks to Terry and George who, after many hours of diagnosis, were able to fix the heat in the 1950's school wing. Thanks to their expertise and willingness to help, much money was saved by not having to call in a repair company.



**Retirement of Debt:** We held a Retirement of Debt Ceremony in the back yard of the parsonage. Some people colloquially called this ceremony “The Burning of the Mortgage.” See picture below.





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**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** — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
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
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 Melancthon (birth), Confessor: thank God for the Augsburg Confession and the other writings of Melancthon that proclaim the truth of the Gospel.
17. *for all caregivers*, that they might raise children in the truth faith.

meet the needs of the children they serve.

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

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.

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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.

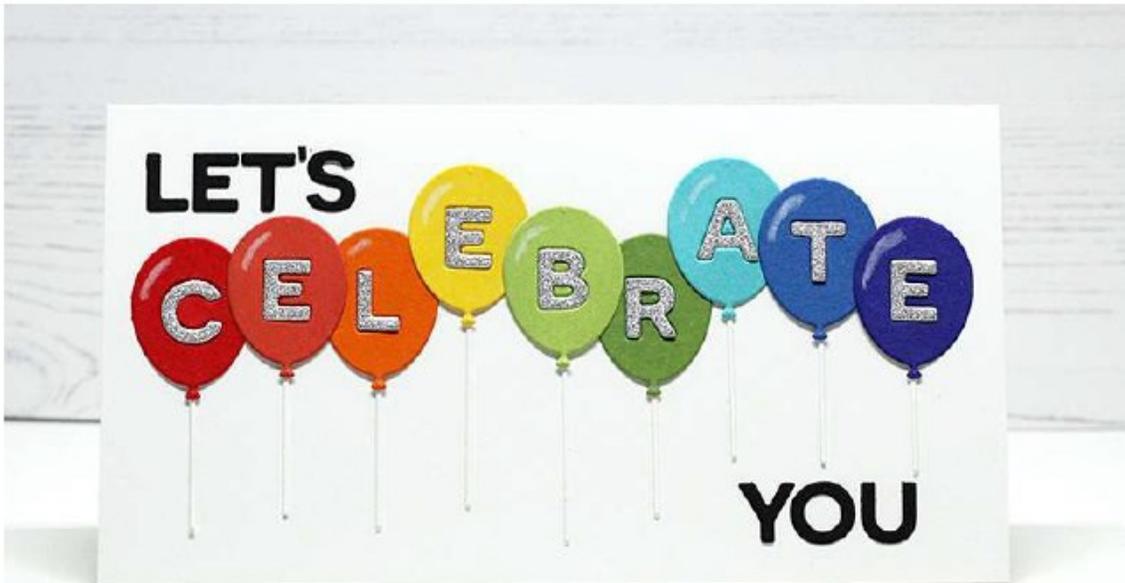
24. St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.
25. *for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.
26. *for children who are missing*, that the Lord would 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](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD



February 3<sup>rd</sup>

David Lyons

February 4<sup>th</sup>

Lani Wo

February 5<sup>th</sup>

Helen Penn

February 6<sup>th</sup>

Rachel Wier & James Zink

February 7<sup>th</sup>

Michael Glasscock & Alexis Tombari

February 9<sup>th</sup>

Stefan Smallfield

February 10<sup>th</sup>

Walter Flechsig & Jack Kraak

February 11<sup>th</sup>

Kelsey Wier

February 14<sup>th</sup>

Kristina Kelly

..

February 17<sup>th</sup>

Diane Jensen

February 18<sup>th</sup>

Melissa Brackett & Reilly Foley

February 19<sup>th</sup>

Nicholaus Yates

February 21<sup>st</sup>

Patricia Jannusch & Dorothy Schneider

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hunter Kwiatkowski

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Kim Wilson

February 25<sup>th</sup>

Brian Bowman, Adam Neubauer &  
Kyle Walk-Faust

February 26<sup>th</sup>

Barbara Banks & Marie Salyers

February 28<sup>th</sup>

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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup>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.

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)

(continued from previous page)

*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

