



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

## February 2024 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: LENT

Many people give up something for Lent, but it is also a time for adding. Lent is a season for increased devotion, and I would encourage you to consider adding a spiritual discipline. There are many disciplines to choose from, but I would like to suggest that you commit to reading the Bible more.

One way to do this is to follow the Daily Lectionary. The Daily Lectionary assigns a portion of Scripture to each day of the year. It begins in Lent on Ash Wednesday and continues throughout the entire year. The Daily Lectionary covers almost all of the Bible, though due to the way the calendar shifts, you would not necessarily cover everything in every year.

You can find the Daily Lectionary on p. 299–304 of *Lutheran Service Book*. During the seasons of Lent and Easter, readings are assigned according to the Sundays of the church year. You'll have to make sure you keep track of where we are with respect to the church calendar. After the Festival of the Holy Trinity, the readings are keyed to the secular calendar. Because the seasons of the church year are variable, you will likely need to skip ahead by as much as a few weeks to the appointed readings.

To help you navigate these readings, I print them each week on our prayers and announcements insert, which is provided in our weekly worship folder and posted each week on our church website.

After taking up this discipline during the season of Lent, you can keep this new habit going throughout the rest of the year, and by next year you will have read through almost the entire Bible!

### An announcement

Every Sunday morning following worship, we have an intergenerational Family Bible Hour. We have been reading through some of the main stories of the Bible, putting them into the big story of everything.

But because this class is directed toward people of all ages, we do not dig too deeply into theological topics. If you are the kind of person who wants a deeper study, I will be offering a new resource beginning in Lent. I have long been preparing a project called Wittenberg Beer, which will dive deep into the Reformation insights of the Bible and the Christian faith.

I plan to offer this in a podcast format, so that you can take this in-depth study with you on the go. This Lent, I will begin with a review and study of what might be considered the first systematic theology of the Reformation, Philip Melancthon's *Loci Communes* (Commonplaces) of 1521. Stay tuned for more information!

In Christ,

under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard

### Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday Services at 4:30PM and 7PM

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> - Lent Midweek Vespers at 7PM

Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> - Lent Midweek Vespers at 7PM



From the  
Pastor's  
Desk

**From the Principal:** What an amazing week we had celebrating St. John's Lutheran School from January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. All school daily devotions, service projects and other activities kept us busy all week. The students played trivia, BINGO (JESUS style), went on a scavenger hunt, and participated in their Chapel Family Olympics event. On Friday, we wrapped things up by sharing our school with our VIPs (very important person). From breakfast that included special performances to time in their classrooms, to a closing Chapel, we had a wonderful 1/2 day of school.

As we look ahead into February, our students are going into week two of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. February also includes many basketball games for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade teams. On Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> our student choir will participate in the Grade School Choral Fest at Walther Christian Academy. All of our students will be able to show off some of their many God-given talents at our Talent Show on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

We are thankful for our wonderful school families and supportive church community that provides us with the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our students each and every day!

Let all that you do be done in LOVE. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Principal Runge

**Mite Boxes:** Help meet mission goal of \$2,350,000

Yes, that little (LWML) Lutheran Women's Missionary Mite Box has been challenged to meet the goal of over two million dollars for the years 2023 to 2025. And, they will do it! Prior years have proven it. The National LWML has adopted 31 mission areas this goal will assist during said years.

Thank you to everyone in our St. John's family of faith who has been supporting the Mite box. Your donations are appreciated; however, there are still Mite Boxes to be used by YOU who have not participated. Look for the Mite Box in the Narthex of the church at the LWML table when you enter. Take one, put your loose coins in it when you return home from shopping, and ask God to bless the mission work your box will help. When the box is full, return it to the larger Mite Box found on this same table at St. John's.

Thank you for helping, with your Mite Box, spread God's word through so many mission fields adopted by your LWML.

**Ladies Book Club:** In February, the Ladies Book Club will be reading Blood, Fire & Gold by Eltelle Paraque. This book explores the story of Queen Elizabeth I of England and Catherine de Medici of France as they shaped the course of history during the sixteenth century. This well researched novel offers a new way of looking at two of history's most powerful women: through the eyes of each other.

The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us or if you have reading suggestions for next year.





# NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK '24

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Each day, the students and staff celebrated with a school spirit theme, morning chapel, a special service project and a fun activity or game! We concluded the week with a well-attended VIP Day!







# Need Cookies?

Support St. John's Cadette  
and Senior Girl Scout Troop  
20010

Visit us on Sunday, February 4th at the  
Jefferson Park Indoor Farmer's Market at the  
Copernicus Center's Annex, 5214 W. Lawrence

We will have cookies on hand to fill your needs.  
Hours will be 10am-2pm. Cookies are \$6.00 per box!

Or order online at

<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/troop20010-430?fpkp=1>



# St. John's Lutheran School Community Playdate!

**Tuesday, February 13th**

**9 am - 10 am**

**Valentine's Day  
themed craft, music  
and movement  
activities, and  
playtime.**



REGISTER NOW



[www.stjohnschicago.school/playdate](http://www.stjohnschicago.school/playdate)

**18 MONTHS - 3 YRS**

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE  
ACCOMPANIED BY A  
CAREGIVER**

Questions? [marketing@stjohnschicago.org](mailto:marketing@stjohnschicago.org)





St. John's Lutheran School

Empowering. Enlightening. Enriching.

# SUMMER CAMP

AT  
ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

**FUN & CREATIVE  
SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR  
STUDENTS PRE-K (4 YR)  
THROUGH 5TH GRADE**

**June 10th -  
August 2nd**



**ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

4939 W. Montrose Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60641

**Reserve your  
spot today!**

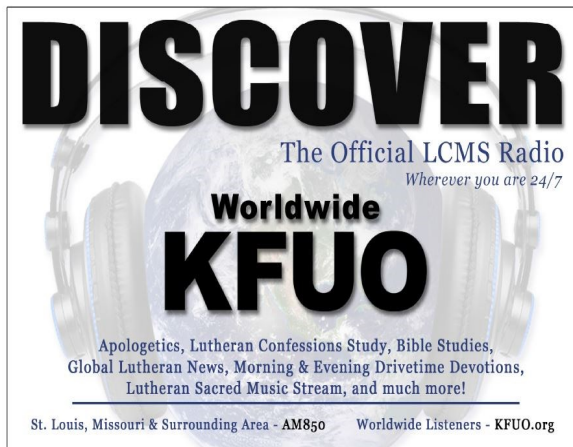
**Register Here!**

**<https://form.jotform.com/240224064512140>**



**marketing@stjohnschicago.org . www.stjohnschicago.org**





## Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUOradio](https://www.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** — 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

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](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 3rd**

David Lyons

**February 4th**

Lani Wo

**February 5th**

Helen Penn

**February 6th**

Rachel Wier & James Zink

**February 7th**

Michael Glasscock

**February 9th**

Stefan Smallfield

**February 11th**

Kelsey Wier

**February 14th**

Kristina Kelly

**February 15th**

Judy Weimer

**February 17th**

Diane Jensen

**February 18th**

Melissa Brackett

**February 19th**

Nicholaus Yates

**February 21st**

Patricia Jannusch & Dorothy Schneider

**February 25th**

Brian 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. <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.

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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

