



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

February 2025
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:

The Daily Office in the Reformation

You may know that Martin Luther was a monk. After getting caught in a thunderstorm and fearing for his life, he prayed to St. Anne that, if she would save him, he would become a monk. He survived that storm, though it was by God's grace and not St. Anne's protection, and he followed through with his promise. He entered the order of the Hermits of St. Augustine and began practicing the monastic life.

Part of the monastic life was praying "the hours." Eight times each day, the monks would gather together for prayer. These were not spontaneous prayers, but prayer services organized around the Psalms and other songs from the Bible (canticles). They began at 3AM. with Matins and ended at 8PM. with Compline before bed. The full lineup was Matins (night/early morning), Lauds (early morning), Prime (sunrise), Terce (3rd hour), Sext (noon), Nones (9th hour), Vespers (sunset), Compline (end of the day).

By gathering everyday to pray the Psalms over many years Luther (and any monk) would learn the entire Psalter and a good deal of Scripture simply by using it in their prayers and setting it to song. Luther saw great value in the discipline of regular prayer and singing the Psalms and other portions of Scripture, but he also recognized that the rigorous monastic schedule was not practical for everyday people.

In his liturgical reforms, he took the major prayer services of Matins (combined with Lauds) and Vespers and used them for morning and evening prayer services for all Christians. We have inherited that tradition in our hymnal with the services of Matins for morning and Vespers for evening. These services were never meant to be a preplacement for the weekly Divine Service of God's Word and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, but a supplement to it. Matins and Vespers continue the Sunday liturgy through the week.

We have also supplemented the Reformation prayer services with our own service of Compline as well as services of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, which incorporate other parts of the "hours" in services for everyday people.

We often use these prayer "offices" for midweek services or other occasions, but I also encourage you to take out your hymnal and use these services—whole or in part—for your own personal prayers.

Next month: O Lord, open my lips.

In Christ,

under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

From the Principal: St. John's Lutheran School just got done celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week the last week of January. What a fabulous week we had celebrating! Sunday morning over 60 of our students joined us at St. John's to use their musical gifts to enhance our worship.

Monday was all about SHINING BRIGHT for Jesus as our students wore neon colors and got to do some cosmic bowling. We are all thankful for the firm foundation we have in Jesus, our Rock. We were able to celebrate that on Tuesday as we dressed like rock stars, painted rocks of positivity for our neighborhood and participated in a school-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament. The school was filled with Superheroes and Villains on Wednesday. The students were reminded that Jesus is our Superhero and we participated in some STEM challenges as Chapel Families. Which leads us to Thursday and as our school was decked out in their Chapel Family colors we talked about the benefits we receive from being a part of God's family and closed the day with Chapel Family Olympics. We loved having so many VIPs join us on Friday for entertainment, activities and a closing Chapel service. It was so awesome to have so many important people join us.

As we look to February, here are some things that we have on the calendar:

Enrollment is open for the 2025-2026 School Year. If you know of anyone interested in St. John's please have them reach out and schedule a tour with us. Our goal is to have at least 180 students next school year.

We have two fun family events planned this month. On **Friday, February 14th**, the PTL is hosting a Family Valentine's Day Dance. The Class of 2025 will host a Fun Fair on **Friday, February 28th**.

Principal Runge

St. John's Lutheran Church Celebrates 150 years by Remembering the Past:

Meet a person who helped make St. John's great! It was 2009 when Henry Friedrich, life-long member and faithful usher at St. John's German Worship, related the below text to me of how it was back then.

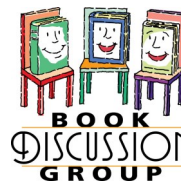
Henry was born in 1918; baptized and confirmed at St. John's. He was a life-long member until the Lord called him home July 5th, 2014. His parents were identified as some of the "Volga Germans", who were requested by Catherine the Great (a German princess married to the Czar of Russia) to farm a Russian province by the Black Sea along the Volga River. These Germans were great farmers and Russia needed more food to feed its population. Quite a number of the Volga Germans immigrated to America and became members of St. John's.

His parents came to the United States to make a better life for themselves in 1911. They settled in the Chicago area where they knew other Volga Germans and joined our Lutheran Church on Monroe. Father found a job as a teamster, driving horses used for hauling lumber. A childhood memory of Henry's was getting up very early to feed the horses and harnessing them for his Father's day's labor. "You had to be careful," Henry said with a chuckle, "that these horses didn't get into the oat bin because they didn't know when to stop eating oats and their bellies would swell up so you couldn't harness them."

In the summer months Father worked excavating and digging house foundations in the growing city of Chicago. Horses, manpower and, at times, a steam shovel were the main tools. "Father had a scar around his neck and as a youngster, I thought all fathers had this scar." It so happened that a cable on the steam shovel snapped, whipped out and wrapped around Father's neck. Editor's comment - he was fortunate to have only a scar. When the great depression came, jobs were scarce. Father worked with the WPA (Works Progress Administration) at Ries Park! "There were no other jobs. There was no money. We were poor like church mice."

Note: Next month the EAGLE will continue with Henry Friedrich's life while attending St. John's Lutheran School. The first classrooms were in the basement of the first wooden church and all subjects were taught in German!

Ladies Book Club: In February the Ladies Book Club will be reading The Overnight Guest by Heather Gundenkauf. In this thriller, a crime writer receives an unexpected visitor while being snowed in at an isolated farmhouse. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month. We are currently asking for book suggestions for next year. If you have suggestions or would like to join us please contact Betty Carey.



St. John's School News:

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year will open this week for all current students. New students will have the opportunity to register at the beginning of February.

Our goal for next school year's enrollment is 180 students! One way we are working on retention at St. John's is by launching a new enrollment process called **Continuous Enrollment**. Rather than opt-in re-enrollment, where all parents/guardians must sign new contracts to enroll their children each school year, continuous enrollment is an opt-out process that has been used successfully with many other private education institutions. With continuous enrollment, students are automatically re-enrolled for the following school year unless they notify the school otherwise. With this approach, families now sign one continuous enrollment contract that remains in effect for the duration of their child(ren)'s enrollment at St. John's. This helps our efforts in partnering with our school families!

There are many benefits to utilizing continuous enrollment:

- Reduced paperwork
- Increased student retention
- Budgeting more accurately
- Earlier confidence in re-enrollment numbers
- Simplified re-enrollment process for families
- It saves time and energy with trying to track down families and convincing them to register
- Encourages families to make a long term investment at St. John's

We have several Open Houses and continually give personalized tours to new families. In fact, just in the last few weeks we have given 5 tours and have 4 more scheduled! As you meet new families and go about your daily routines, don't forget to share the good news of St. John's!

Looking for a way to give to St. John's? Consider our Agape Fund. The St. John's Agape Fund provides tuition help to families that are in need. There are times when students and their families might run into a challenging situation, such as a medical emergency, loss of a family member or job loss. The Agape Fund can help aid families in need, and allow for students to continue their education at St. John's. If you are interested in contributing to the Agape Fund, please contact the school office.

In Christ,

Jenna Scifo
Admissions & Marketing Coordinator

Kindergarten gym class



Lego Robotics Team placed 6th place at competition



4th grade leading chapel service



Students participating in chapel



Mrs. Ehrhard & preschool learning about animal habitats



Students at Divine Service January 26th





JOIN US FOR A

MARDI GRAS

Gala at Ridgemoor

••••• BUFFET-OPEN BAR - LIVE & SILENT AUCTION - MUSIC •••••

March
8th

TICKET PRICES:
\$175 IN ADVANCE
\$195 AFTER FEB 15TH

6:30pm
10:00pm

RIDGEMOOR COUNTRY CLUB

6601 W GUNNISON CHICAGO, IL 60706

WWW.GOFUNDRAISE.LINK/THEMARDIGRASGALA/TICKETS

COCKTAIL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

COMPLIMENTARY CHILDCARE AVAILABLE ON SITE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST JOHNS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

CONTACT GALA@STJOHNSCHICAGO.ORG





BUFFET- COCKTAILS- LIVE & SILENT AUCTION - MUSIC
JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE MARDI GRAS GALA!

GATHER WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITY AT THE
EXCLUSIVE RIDGEMOOR COUNTRY CLUB FOR A NIGHT OF FUN, MUSIC,
COCKTAILS, AND INCREDIBLE AUCTION ITEMS—ALL IN SUPPORT OF
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL. EVERYONE WARMLY WELCOME.
RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW TO ENSURE YOUR SPOT. LIMITED DOOR
PURCHASES AVAILABLE.

CONTACT KIM FOR QUESTIONS OR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

773.230.8864





LOVED BY GOD
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

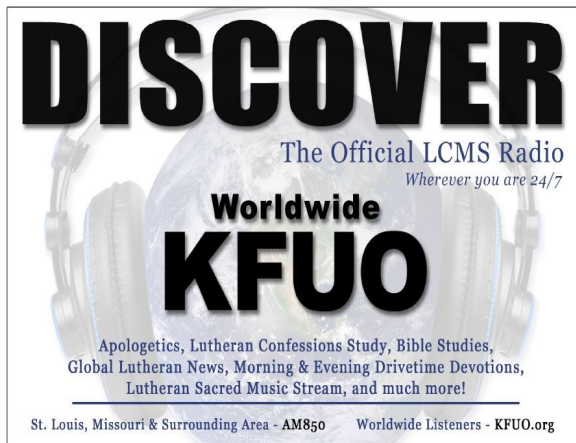
O GOD OF LOVE

A HYMN FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
MINISTRY TO CHICAGO

MARCH 2, 2025, 4PM

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
4939 W MONTROSE AVE
CHICAGO IL 60641,

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR?
CONTACT KATRINA JURICA, EVENT
COORDINATOR
MUSIC@STJOHNSCHICAGO.ORG



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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 KFUEO 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:

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

- for all children*, that they might be brought to the waters of Baptism and taught God's Word.
- 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.
- for men as they grow up*, that they may be godly in their youth and their adult years.
- 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD

FEBRUARY Pray For Us Calendar

- Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor: thank God for Luther's proclamation of salvation by grace through faith for Christ's sake.
- for children and parents who are deaf*, that they might know Jesus's voice and be filled with His peace.
- 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.
- 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.
- for the unemployed*, that they might find suitable and fulfilling employment, fair wages and encouraging support.
- Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr: thank God for those who continued the teachings of Jesus and gave their lives for the Gospel.

- St. Matthias, Apostle: thank God for his quiet witness and those who gave their lives for the Gospel without any recognition.
- for the poor*, that they might find true riches in the Word of God and be blessed by the generosity of others.
- 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.
- 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.
- for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*, that they might be treated with respect and love as beloved children of God.
- 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



Celebrating
FEBRUARY
Birthdays

February 3rd

David Lyons

February 4th

Michael Thompson & Iani Wo

February 5th

Helen Penn

February 6th

Rachel Wier & James Zink

February 7th

Michael Glasscock,
Alexis Tombart & John Wise

February 9th

Stefan Smallfield

February 11th

Kelsey Wier

February 14th

Kristina Kelly

February 15th

Judy Welmer

February 17th

Millicent Beynon & Diane Jensen

February 19th

Nicholaus Yates

February 21st

Patricia Jannusch, Jordan Iedford
& Dorothy Schneider

February 22nd

Hunter Kwiatkowski

February 25th

Brian Bowman, Kyle Walk-Faust

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

