



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

July 2021 Eagle Newsletter



# Independence Day

## Romans 13:1 ESV

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

## From the Pastor: Beyond 150

During the past year and a half, I have been particularly focused on the near future. With so many changes happening so quickly and life upending in unexpected ways, long-term planning found itself on the back burner. But the time is right to start thinking ahead. In just a few years, St. John's will reach a significant milestone and celebrate its 150th anniversary. This is an excellent occasion not only to remember and give thanks for the past 150 years, but also to look ahead to the next 150 years.

At the May voters' meeting, I made a motion to direct our 150th celebration by crafting well-defined statements of mission and vision, which will in turn drive us toward a renewed look at our congregational organization and governance, as well as a strategic plan for mission and ministry in a postmodern world.

This summer will begin preliminary work toward that goal. I will be assembling a small task force and beginning preliminary evaluation of how we currently articulate our mission. This task force will also be charged with gathering insight from our congregation, but ultimately to listen to God's Word and to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in the direction God would have us go.

St. John's currently lacks an organizational vision statement. This will be the first step, and a vision statement will be presented to the voter's meeting next January for adoption. The statement of vision should describe our goal, our destination, our direction. It should be concise and fairly general. Unlike the vision statements of other organizations, our vision should not arise from our own innovations and imaginations, but from God's Word. Where does God focus our eyes and our hearts? That's what we need to capture in a few short words.

Where the statement of vision is more general and abstract (though grounded in God's Word), the mission statement should be a little more detailed and task-oriented. Dr. Russel Dawn of Concordia University Chicago describes the mission statement as a rudder that works mostly under the surface, to direct us toward our destination.

St. John's presently describes its mission in Article III of its constitution:

The mission of this Congregation shall be to provide pastoral care for its members, to teach the Word of God and administer the Sacraments, to preserve purity of doctrine, to exercise Christian love and fellowship, to provide for the Christian training of the young, and to extend the Kingdom of God.

Furthermore, St. John's Lutheran School has the following mission:

St. John's mission is to help families pass their faith in the Lord Jesus on to their children through a Christ-centered educational program and to help children fully develop their God-given gifts.

Both of these statements are good. However, both of them need to be evaluated against a clear statement of vision and the situation of our 21st century post-Christian world. This will be the main task for next May, as the task force continues to develop a strong and clear statement of mission for both church and school.

Then, over the course of the following year, these two statements will help us shape our organizational life together. How do we carry out this mission? How do we govern ourselves to keep us point in the right direction? What should our workers, both professional and volunteer, do on a daily basis to shepherd us further down this path?

Along the way, we'll make sure to celebrate 150. In fact, we should take an entire year to celebrate. And then use that celebration to propel us beyond 150.

In Christ, under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



**From the Principal:** The end of year faculty meeting devotion focused on “Sabbath Rest”. The Theology at Work blog gives three reasons for “Sabbath Rest”.

1. We are designed to rest. (Genesis 1:27, 2:3; Exodus 20:8-11)
2. Sabbath is a form of worship. (Exodus 16:1-36)
3. Sabbath is meant for our good. (Mark 2:27)

I thought it was appropriate for teachers and myself to refocus after dealing with all of the issues that COVID-19 presented for the last one-and-one-half years. For St. John’s teachers and myself, “Sabbath Rest” allows for the following.

1. Even though we are not in the building every day, we are still working. Teachers and myself are participating in professional development activities and making plans for the 2021-2022 school year. We are also taking time to rest from the day to day activities that the school year presents.
2. Faculty has been encouraged to take some time for personal Bible Study. For myself, I have dedicated time each week for in depth devotional reading.
3. We are resting. Taking time to refresh, renew and reenergize will allow all of us to greet the students and parents with enthusiasm when we return to school in August.

In other news, Mikki Wo has accepted the “Call” to be St. John’s Kindergarten Teacher. Mikki has over 20 years of experience and last taught at Immanuel Lutheran School in Elmhurst, IL. I am also happy to announce that Caitlyn Wheeler has agreed to return to teach PS-3 next year.

God Bless your summer!

Principal Green

**New Boards:** The following positions were elected at the May voter’s meeting. Please thank them for their continual service to St. John’s.

President – Adam Neubauer

Secretary – Renée Burden

Elders – Timothy Eischen, Terry Dunn Aaron Doehring, Jarvis Smallfield

Trustees – Terry Wilczak, Ron Byall, Tim Wier, Don Erber, Robert Kraak

BoCE – Renée Bohus, Emma Byall, Tom Clark, Kara Clemente, Mickey Maciejewski

Youth – Vacant Requests were declined

HK Board – Linda Galek and Tom Clark



**Ladies Book Club:** In July the Ladies Book Club will be reading Quiet in Her Bones by Nalini Singh. This is a fast paced murder mystery set in New Zealand. The Ladies Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM via Zoom. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to participate.



JULY

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS — JULY 1-15

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) School Ministry serves as a national voice for Lutheran schools, upholding the standards of Christ-centered schools that are academically strong and respectfully operated. Nationwide, there are 1,992 LCMS schools, which include 1,127 early childhood centers, 778 elementary schools and 87 high schools.

*Remember God's work in Lutheran schools as you pray:*

- 1.** for the children attending Lutheran schools, that their eyes, ears, hearts and minds would be open to God's Word.
- 2.** for Lutheran school teachers, that they would correctly divide and deliver Law and Gospel to students through real-life applications each day.
- 3.** for Lutheran school principals, who lead people to passionately embrace the witness our schools provide to the community. Pray that pastors, principals, directors and teachers would work together in God-pleasing unity.

- 4.** for pastors, who champion the Kingdom work happening in our schools. Pray that pastors would be excited to be an integral part of their school's ministry and the teaching of the children.
- 5.** for the ability of Lutheran schools to serve every child in their care. Ask that the Lord would provide the means to help schools serve children who have disabilities, who have experienced trauma or who come from families with limited resources.
- 6.** for Lutheran schools that are struggling to fill empty seats. Pray that God would revitalize their ministries, energize their staff members and bring more children through their doors.

- 7.** for parents who support our Lutheran schools with their time, talents and treasures. Give thanks for their dedication to the mission of the school.

- 8.** for daily opportunities for our teachers and staff to show God's mercy, love and forgiveness both inside and outside of the classroom. Pray that God would maintain our ability to practice our faith in Lutheran schools.

- 9.** for church members who tell the story of their Lutheran school, that their recommendation might lead more students through the school's doors.

- 10.** for the many non-Christians and exchange students who are coming to our schools. Pray that God would work through the Gospel that they will have faith in Jesus.

- 11.** for first-year teachers, that they may apply their gifts to demonstrate grace and mercy. Pray that God would give them strength and patience.

- 12.** for our early childhood centers that introduce young families to the saving love of Jesus. Pray that they are a faithful witness to the littles of God's children and their families.

- 13.** for courageous Lutheran schools willing to take calculated risks that will result in significant rewards for students. Give the leaders of these schools wisdom in their decisions.

- 14.** for comfort and healing for school faculty and students during times of injury, illness and loss.

- 15.** for God to raise up wise and gifted leaders who are willing to serve in administrative roles at Lutheran schools.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

## JULY Pray For Us Calendar

### CAMPUS MINISTRY — JULY 16-31

The challenges to Christians on our nation's college campuses are increasing exponentially. On practically every campus, objections are increasing to the biblical worldview, Christian doctrine, traditional ethics and moral practices. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) campus-ministry arm, LCMS U, aims to encourage, support and help students, faculty and staff in their response to these challenges so they can boldly bear witness to Christ.

*Remember God's work through LCMS U as you pray:*

- 16.** for the 200-plus LCMS U chapters around the country, that they would receive the support they need to effectively reach out to America's college students.
- 17.** that more congregations and individuals would become involved with their local LCMS U chapters or start new ones.
- 18.** for the growth of LCMS U on urban campuses and at community colleges, two fertile mission fields. Pray that the Lord would open doors to the spread of His Word in these places.
- 19.** for all the dedicated staff and volunteers involved in campus ministry, that God would energize them for their work and use them to plant seeds of faith that will continue to grow.
- 20.** for students starting their first year of college, that they would find a church to attend,

Christian friends and make good decisions while living away from home for the first time.

- 21.** for the parents of college students, especially those who have an empty nest for the first time. Pray that they would find joy and contentment in the midst of life's changes.
- 22.** that Lutheran college students would be bold witnesses to their faith in Jesus Christ, even when faced with pressure from peers and professors.
- 23.** that young people would hunger for the certain truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not be deceived by the half-truths and lies of Satan.
- 24.** for the 800,000-plus foreign students studying at American colleges and universities. Many come from countries where the Gospel is not freely preached. Pray that their time in the U.S. would provide the opportunity for them to learn about Jesus.



- 25.** for the international students who came to faith while studying abroad. Ask the Lord to provide support so that they can continue to grow in their faith after they return home.

- 26.** for busy college students, who are pulled in many directions with the demands of school, work, friends, family and other activities. Pray that they would make God a priority by setting aside time for worship, Bible study and Christian service.

- 27.** for the development of campus-ministry programs at institutions of higher education around the world.

- 28.** that God would bless and guide the work of all students

involved in mission work and volunteer opportunities both at home and abroad. Pray that this time would be a blessing to them and others.

- 29.** with thanksgiving for a new school year. Pray that students and campus-ministry workers would return refreshed and with renewed dedication.

- 30.** for recent college graduates, that they would find gainful employment as well as a church home where they can learn about God's holy Word in all of its truth and purity.

- 31.** for all students, that God would protect them and provide people to share with them the Word of God.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lcms.org/prayforus](https://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD



# JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1<sup>st</sup> .. Robert Mohr  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> .. Rebecca Przybylski  
July 4<sup>th</sup> .. Jennifer Stinar  
July 6<sup>th</sup> .. Matthew Pahnke  
July 9<sup>th</sup> .. John Moore, Thomas Randel  
July 11<sup>th</sup> .. Karen Banks  
July 12<sup>th</sup> .. Robert Miller, Jacob Runge  
July 13<sup>th</sup> .. Stephanie Todd  
July 15<sup>th</sup> .. Carles Lemon  
July 17<sup>th</sup> .. Linda Kleim  
July 18<sup>th</sup> .. Daniel Fasshauer  
July 21<sup>st</sup> .. Thomas Deahl, Dan Green  
July 22<sup>nd</sup> .. Zachary Moore, Jack Penland  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> .. Carrie O'Grady, Mary Slattery  
July 24<sup>th</sup> .. Diane Polvere, Lynsey Scott  
July 25<sup>th</sup> .. Leonard Heldt  
July 27<sup>th</sup> .. Rachael Franklin  
July 29<sup>th</sup> .. Richard Gernhofer, William Whitehead  
July 31<sup>st</sup> .. Karen Bebart





## July 2021 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

<http://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.