



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

July 2022 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 Trustees: The Trustees are working on three major projects, including upgrading the fire alarm system, tuckpointing the east side of the school, and installing new church stairs. If you can assist with any work around the church and school, please contact Terry Wilczak at twilczak@harrissteelco.com

From the Principal: The school year has ended, but there is still activity in the school building. During the week of June 20th, St. John's Lutheran School welcomed over 30 children to Vacation Bible School. VBS was conducted by UKANDU Chicago. "UKANDU is a Christian mission organization dedicated to helping youth and adults become the heart and hands of Christ to those in need around the world." UKANDU's executive director is Pastor Pete Imlah from St. John's Lutheran Church, Lombard IL. Two St. John's students assisted the UKANDU staff during VBS.

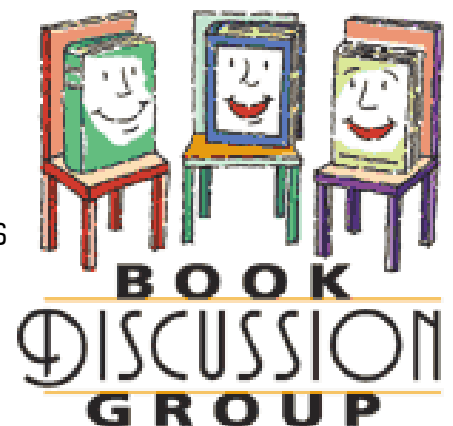
An Early Childhood Playdate was conducted on June 28th. This event was open to current enrolled students, potential new students and the community at large. This event is an opportunity to acclimate new families to the school as well as share with potential new families the exciting offerings of St. John's Early Childhood Program.

While teachers are not on campus during the summer, they are still hard at work. Each teacher must do a professional development activity during the summer. Teachers will also be reading School Culture Rewired. This book will serve as a discussion item at our meetings throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Mrs. Runge and I have completed the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation's "Principal 360 Chicago Edition". The program culminated with Michelle and I presenting St. John's Strategic Plan to the CLEF staff and school principals. A portion of the strategic plan mirrors some of the remediation items in the National Lutheran School's Accreditation School Improvement Plan. The strategic plan will be shared with St. John's Voters at the fall Voter's Assembly.

Thank you for your prayers and support! - Principal Green

Ladies Book Club: In July the Ladies Book Club will be reading Montenegro by Starling Lawrence. This novel is set in 1908. An Englishman travels to Montenegro as a spy to assess the political situation while pretending to be a botanist. There he befriends a Serbian family and is drawn into danger that will forever change his life. The Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Contact Betty Carey if you would like to be included.





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 or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD



July 1st
Robert Mohr

July 2nd
Rebecca Przybylski

July 4th
Jennifer Stinar

July 5th
Jessica Roehl

July 6th
Carlos Flores

July 9th
John Moore

July 10th
Joshua Bohus & Emily Wardecki

July 11th
Karen Banks

July 12th
Robert Miller & Jacob Runge

July 15th
Charles Lemon

July 17th
Linda Kleim & Luke Kraak

July 18th
Evan Fernandez

July 20th
Dan Green

July 21st
Jeremy Jensen

July 22nd
Zachary Moore

July 23rd
Mary Slattery

July 24th
Diane Polvere & Lynsey Scott

July 25th
Leonard Heldt

July 27th
Rachael Franklin

July 29th
Gabriella Benedict,
Richard Gernhofer &
William Whitehead

July 31st
Karen Bebar



July 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS - The New Testament Standard of Giving

New Testament Standard of Giving: Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also. Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

"At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the "Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God's giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.