



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

July 2023 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:

Three Modes of Presence

The book of Ephesians says that Jesus Christ ascended to “fill all things.” This tells us that heaven is not a place with coordinates in space. Rather, heaven permeates all things because of God’s omnipresence.

So when we say that Christ is present in the Lord’s Supper, that is, His body and His blood, we need to define what we mean by “present.” When the Lutheran Reformers were confronted with the argument that Christ could *not* be present in the Lord’s Supper, they defined three modes of Christ’s presence: local, replete, and definite.

Local presence is the everyday presence that we’re all accustomed to: being present in one place at one time and no further. If your daughter walks into your room, we say that she is *locally* present in her room. Creatures who are placed in space and time are bound to this kind of presence. If a thing is not *locally* present, it is absent.

Replete presence, on the other hand, is omnipresence. *Replete* is from a Latin word that means “filled up” and was used to describe that verse from Ephesians, as well as other places in Scripture that speak of God’s omnipresence. God fills the heavens and the earth (Jer. 23:24).

Definite presence is somewhere between the two. *Definite* presence is “defined” by God’s Word. It is made possible by the omnipresence of God, but it is not everywhere. There is a location—here and not there—but it’s not identical with the location. For example, angels or demons—as spiritual beings—can occupy the same space as creatures, which is why Jesus often must cast out demons who are *definitively* present in a person. Jesus’ Word “defines” a new presence for them.

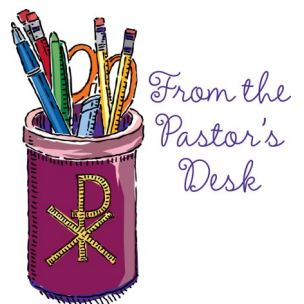
When Jesus says of the bread, “This is my body,” he “defines” a unique presence of His body in this particular bread of the Lord’s Supper. Although Jesus is truly present in nature, you cannot take a bite of a tree leaf, for example, and claim to eat His body; He has not defined His presence there.

Furthermore, the *definite* presence of Christ does not annihilate the *local* presence of the bread. They are present at the same time, but in a different mode. The opponents of the presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper insist on *local* presence only because they say that if a body is in more than one place at one time, it cannot be a body.

Next time: The answer of the *genus maiestaticum* (and what does that mean anyway?!)

In Christ, under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



2023-2025 Elections: The following people have been Elected to Boards at St. John's. If you are interested in one of the vacant positions listed below in **red**, please contact Adam Neubauer - neubauer.adam@gmail.com.

President - Adam Neubauer | Secretary - **We desperately need someone to serve God and neighbor in this role.**

Trustees - Terry Wilczak | Robert Kraak | Ron Byall | Donald Erber | Tim Wier | Bob Anhalt, who also serves as Treasurer, has agreed to continue to be the Treasurer; **however, we desperately need someone to serve God and neighbor in this role. Bob will stay on and fully transition the responsibilities.**

Board of Elders - Timothy Eischen | Aaron Doebling | Jarvis Smallfield

Board of Christian Education - Renee Bohus | Kara Clemente | Micky Maciejewski | Susan Yates

Board of Youth - **We need someone to serve God and neighbor in this role.** | HK Endowment Committee - Tim Schmidt | Linda Byall

From the Principal: St. John's has been "home" for me for the last 19 years. I have had the joy and privilege of being the 8th grade home-room teacher and teaching the 6th-8th graders year after year. I have loved every second that I've been in the classroom and the opportunity I have had sharing the Gospel with hundreds of students. For the 2023-2024 school year, St. John's will continue to be "home" for me. However, it will look quite different as I move into the role of Principal.

With change comes a mixture of emotions. I am excited to lead and support our amazing faculty and staff as we live out our school's mission. I look forward to loving and encouraging the families of our St. John's community. Yet, the questions of the unknown are real and present. But Hebrews 13:8 reminds me that "Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever." He has been faithful in my last 19 years of ministry and He will continue to be faithful into the future.

In June, I participated in the FLAME (Future Lutheran Administrators - Midwest Educators) conference in preparation for all the new things that lie ahead. After three days of learning, I felt even more confident in what God has called me to do, because this new thing is from Him. What reassurance we have from Revelations 21:5 as it says "Behold, I am making all things new".

July will be spent fully transitioning into my new role and preparing for the new school year. The theme this year will be "Connected". It is based on John 15:1-5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." Please pray for our faculty, staff, students and their families as we emphasize the importance of being connected to Christ!

- Mrs. Runge

From the Trustees: The Trustees are undertaking several projects including repairing and tuckpointing the old section of the school roof as well as fixing and refinishing school doors. The parking lot has been re-sealed.

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League): The group is still alive at St. John's Lutheran Church. It's not a real vocal group of women, but women who are interested in helping the word of God spread through all nations enabled by their donated "mites". Mites are coins that these women collect in small Mite Boxes for the purpose of helping the mission work sponsored by LWML. You, too, are encouraged to reach out to this mission work. Take a home Mite Box from the LWML table located in the Narthex of our church. When full, you can return it to the larger Mite Box on that same table. Just this month, St. John's LWML turned in \$371.78 of mites at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee. Help spread the word of God with your Mite Box. God bless your efforts.

Ladies Book Club: In July the Ladies Book Club will be reading I Know an Old Lady by Margaret Standafer. This delightful coming of age novel is about a neglected teenage boy and an old woman who changes his life in one summer. The Ladies Book Club is still meeting via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.





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

Jennie Stinar

July 6th

Carlos Flores

July 9th

John Moore

July 10th

Joshua Bohus & Emily Wardecki

July 11th

Karen Banks

July 12th

Robert Miller & Jake Runge

July 15th

Wayne 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

Carrie O'Grady & Mary Slattery

July 24th

Diane Polvere & Lynsey Scott

July 25th

Leonard Heldt

July 27th

Rachael Franklin

July 28th

Robert Schmidt

July 29th

Madison Bakula, Gabriella Benedict, Rick Gernhofer & Bill Whitehead

July 31st

Karen Bebart



July 2023 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS - Go... Sell All You Have?

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.