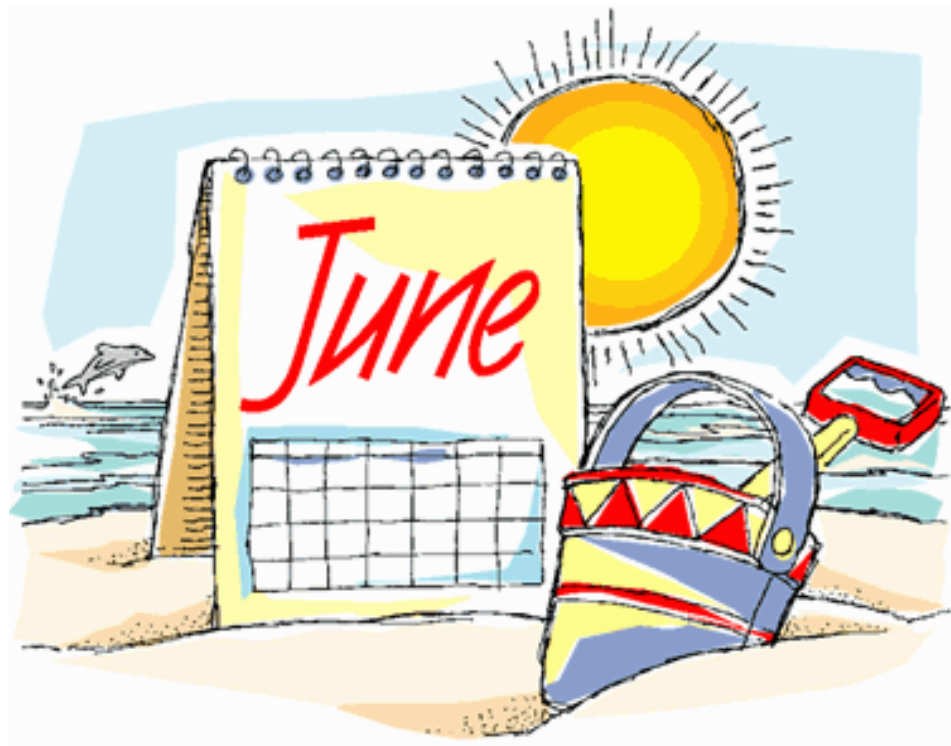




St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

June 2020 Eagle Newsletter



John 14:6-7 ESV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him."

Surviving Trying Times

I must first start this month off with an apology. Last time I wrote, I was intending to schedule a daily devotion on the Psalms. I recorded a couple, and then I realized just how long it would take to produce a twice-daily video devotion. For comparison, a 45 minute worship video takes about 10 hours from start to finish to complete, including preparation, recording, editing, and uploading. I decided that more is not always better and that I needed to preserve a little time to rest and recharge.

The last two months have been unlike anything any of us have experienced. And just as it began to look like life was beginning to open up, the country hit its boiling point in response to the death of George Floyd. These are trying times, to be sure.

Five and a half years ago I remember staying up all night watching my home town of Ferguson burn, protests devolving into riots, military grade vehicles rolling down the same street I used to drive to go to my high school. It was heartbreaking. I still drive by some of those empty lots once or twice each year. As the news displays images of marchers and looters and officers all stretched between commitments to law, order, justice, peace, I'm reminded of those hours watching West Florissant Ave., of my own conflicted thoughts and emotions.

I wish I could tell you I learned something from Ferguson that would help Chicago in 2020. I think one of the most important lessons is that your first thoughts, your gut reaction, is probably not right. If there's one thing civil unrest is good for, it confirms that Lutherans understand original sin better than most. Our confession is that every human born in the natural way is born with sin, and that this original sin inclines us to sin. Our first move is away from God.

So trying times call for restraint. They call for prayer. They call for repentance. They call for listening to God.

One of the chants that protestors use to decry police violence is "No justice, no peace." The problem is that in a world overrun by sin, there is never true justice. Every one of our attempts to justify an injustice ends in another injustice.

But there is a solution. Jesus is both our justice and our peace. His justice is one earned in blood that forgives sins. His peace is a peace that brings us together and brings us to God.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace. Ephesians 2:13-15.

One other lesson I learned from Ferguson. Trying times will give way to peace. This is why Jesus died. To justify and to bring peace.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

- Pastor Ehrhard



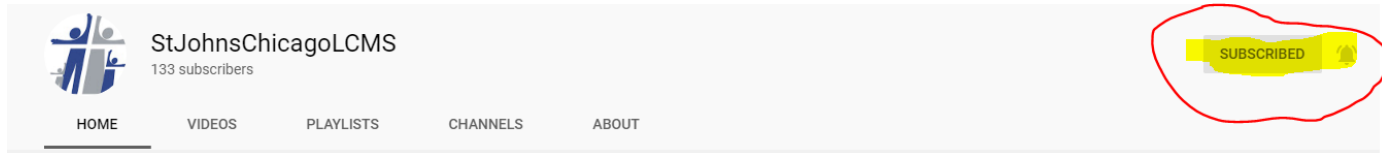
*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Online Worship Resources: Click here for online worship resources:

<https://www.stjohnschicago.church/blog>

Please subscribe to our YouTube channel and opt-in to notifications:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsChicagoLCMS>

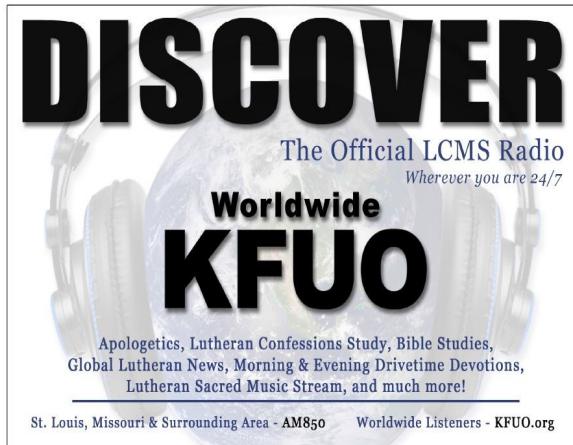


Voter's Meeting: The Fall 2020 Voter's meeting will occur when additional guidance regarding COVID-19 enables us to meet in-person. Please keep your eyes and ears out for announcements.

Christopher Antonetti Ordination: Christopher Omero Antonetti has been called by the Lord of the Church into the Office of the Holy Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, being placed by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to serve as Pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lockport, Illinois.

You are cordially invited to attend Christopher's ordination service, to be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana on Saturday, June 20th 2020 at 2PM ET. Although we do not expect to exceed gathering limits, please RSVP to Christopher at christopher.antonetti@gmail.com or 8147.971.0848. The service will also be available on Redeemer's YouTube page. Most of all, prayers for Christopher and the congregation which has called him are greatly appreciated.





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUF

Find and Listen at kfuf.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUFradio.

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 KFUF 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.





JUNE

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — JUNE 1-30

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) officially began work in the Dominican Republic in 2004. Over the years, a group home was established to care for orphaned children with disabilities; congregations and mission plants were started; and a deaconess-training program was launched. The LCMS seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic, trains students from around the Latin America region.

Remember God's work in the Dominican Republic as you pray:

1. for the seminary students who will enter the seminary this fall, that they would be able to acquire their student visas and other documentation needed to study in the Dominican Republic.
2. for seminary students and their families, that they would have a smooth transition to life in a new place away from family and friends. Praise God for these dedicated students who are willing to leave home to obtain a solid theological education.
3. that God would grant the seminary students determination and endurance, so that they might be diligent in their studies

and make the most of their education.

4. for the women studying to be deaconesses, that the theological coursework and intensive practical experience would form them into capable and effective deaconesses.
5. that God would grant strength to our deaconesses as they support the work of pastors by caring for the poor, the marginalized and the sick.
6. with thanksgiving for all the faithful and generous people who have prayed or given of their time or treasures to make the seminary and mercy center a reality.

7. for the seminary professors, that they would be well-prepared to impart wisdom and knowledge to their students.

8. that the Spanish-language theological library at the seminary would be well used and a blessing to the students and faculty.

9. for the families of the professors, that they would adapt easily and find joy in a new country and culture.

10. for Lutheran congregations in Latin America, that they would be prepared to care for and support their pastors physically, mentally and spiritually.

11. for seminary students who are serving vicarages, that they would learn much from their experience and be better prepared for their future ministry.

12. for all the missionaries and leaders of the Dominican church, that they would discern God's

will so that they can build a firm foundation for the church for generations to come.

13. that God would raise up individuals and congregations to support our LCMS missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

14. that God would supply faithful and capable men and women to serve as missionaries, both in Latin America and around the world.

15. with thanksgiving for faithful men and women who have given up the comforts of home and family to faithfully serve on the mission field.

16. that many in the Dominican Republic would hear God's Word and believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that they would attend worship each Sunday to receive the Word and Sacraments.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

JUNE Pray For Us Calendar

17. that God would grant health and safety to all missionaries and their families.

18. that the Dominican Christians would continue to study God's Word and be strengthened to live faithfully and serve their neighbors in love.

19. with thanksgiving for the willingness of the Dominican people to hear and learn God's Word. By God's grace, the LCMS has established congregations and mission stations around the country.

20. that God would raise up many Lutheran school teachers and school administrators — especially from among the Dominican congregations — to meet the needs of the large number of eager students.

21. that the families of our Lutheran school children would also hear God's Word and be brought to faith.

22. with thanksgiving for the large and ever-growing number of students seeking education in our Lutheran schools in the Dominican Republic.

23. that the Lutheran mission churches in the Dominican

Republic would continue to grow and mature through regular worship and Bible study.

24. with thanksgiving for the many faithful Christians who regularly worship in our mission congregations.

25. with thanksgiving for Hogares Luteranos El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd Lutheran Home), which provides a safe and nurturing facility for young people with developmental disabilities.

26. that God would grant patience and endurance for the faithful workers who care for the group home's residents. Praise God that He has used these wonderful young people to teach the Dominican Lutheran church about His love and mercy.

27. with thanksgiving that the residents of Hogares Luteranos El Buen Pastor have become active members of the local Lutheran church, where they are eager to hear God's Word and to serve in any way possible.

28. with thanksgiving for the willingness of faithful and gentle caregivers who serve the residents of Good Shepherd Lutheran Home.



29. for all the mission work throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

30. with thanksgiving that we are one in Christ with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Latin America.

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. LUNSFORD

Happy Birthday To Everyone Born in June!



June 1st

Timothy Eischen
Jerod Ferry
Ting Huie-Diaz
Dorothea Klawitter

June 3rd

Stephania Flechsig

June 11th

Daniela Spaid

June 12th

Carol Cowie
Nancy Gundlach

June 14th

Tara Ahrendt

June 16th

Roberta Wegner

June 17th

Lisa Prats

June 20th

Rocky Speciale
Kyle Van Tilburg

June 21st

Robert Anhalt
Charles Lorenz

June 22nd

Crystal Turrentine

June 23rd

Gordy Johnson
Karin Woods

June 26th

Lauren Bakula
Jeremy Benedict

June 27th

Daniella Mack

June 28th

Lauren Callaghan

June 29th

Emma Byall
Sandra Cho
Hasan Samarxhiu



June 2020 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>

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3) So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.