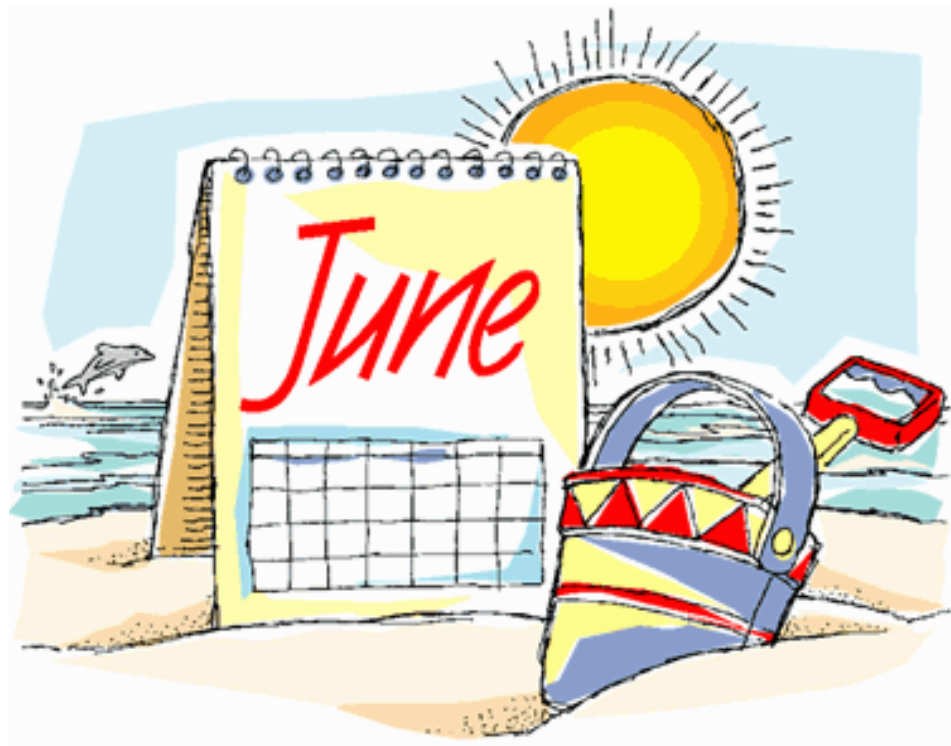




St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

June 2021 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."

A Summer of Cautious and Prayerful Optimism: Christians are no strangers to hope. The resurrection of Jesus ensures our hope. As we move into the summer months, there are new reasons to hope that our past year and a half of strict precautions will soon be ending. New recommendations from national and local health officials as well as the trends of illness, especially severe illness and death, due to Covid-19 are on the decline in our country. Thanks be to God!

To that end, we will begin a new phase of protocols here at St. John's beginning on June 6th. This date is convenient for several reasons. First, there are already some changes planned for that date, and introducing them all at once is more efficient than rolling them out piecemeal. Second, St. John's Lutheran School dismisses for the summer on June 4th. The school will maintain its current protocols through the end of the school year, and June 6th is a natural day to adjust our practices in the church without worrying about conflicting with school protocols.

What's going to change? First, we will return to our single morning service at 9:30AM beginning June 6th. The guidance for occupancy during Illinois' "Bridge Phase" is 60%, which translates to 120 in the sanctuary. Additionally, many of you have told me that you are fully vaccinated, and fully vaccinated individuals do not count against this figure. Our evening service will remain at 6PM, which is an opportunity for people to attend service with a small crowd (often only myself and two elders assisting with worship).

We will also remove the pew ropes and replace the Bibles and hymnals. The consensus of the most recent reports is that surface transmission is negligible, especially if you practice good hygiene. Furthermore, distancing measures beyond close, personal contact are also negligible. Six feet of distance is essentially the same as sixty feet of distance. However, please remain respectful of people who might wish to keep their distance for the time being.

We will no longer "require" face coverings in the building. It was never a requirement, but we asked for people to be respectful and act out of the principle of Christian love and self-sacrifice. This change was the most difficult decision because the recommendations are that fully vaccinated individuals do not need face coverings in most settings. This means that children and those who choose not to receive the vaccine should still keep their face coverings on. However, since there is no practical way to make this distinction, the only options are to keep a full requirement for masks or to make them optional for all. At this point, I am comfortable making face masks optional and inviting individuals to use their own best judgment as to when and how to continue their use.

Since I am fully vaccinated (and I recommend it for you also, see last month's Eagle newsletter), I will not wear my face mask for most circumstances. However, I will still carry it in my back pocket and put it on when I might be in close contact with others, such as distributing communion. I invite you to consider how you might express Christian charity in a similar way.

What will remain the same? For now Bible class and other social gatherings will remain on hold. God's Word and Sacrament are the one thing needful; all other fellowship opportunities are secondary. We hope to restore other activities in the fall, God willing.

Also, Covid has renewed the importance of personal hygiene and cleanliness in general. I will continue to take additional precautions in the distribution of the Lord's Supper, including hand washing and sanitizing, as well as sanitizing the communion chalice with high-proof alcohol. Please also continue to practice good hygiene, especially when you are feeling under the weather. What might be a mild illness for you could be serious for someone else.

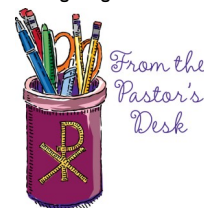
Our ongoing practices, especially during cold and flu season, should also include a renewed practice of staying home when you feel ill. Similarly, I've decided that whenever I feel that little twinge of illness come on, I will not be afraid to wear a face covering until I am recovered. These two small precautions will help us avoid big changes like a complete shutdown or universal mask requirements.

We will continue to live-stream one service each weekend for those who are still not ready to return to public gatherings at this time. We will also keep some sort of service broadcast into the future, whether it's a fully live-streamed service or a recording of a portion of the service. That way, if you or your household are fighting the flu 2 years from now, you will still be able to tune in to participate.

The next few months I will write about what we can anticipate over the next months in establishing what will be normal for us going forward after the pandemic.

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



From the Principal: "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."
- Matthew 20:28.

"Sent to Serve" was the theme for the 2020 – 2021 school year at St. John's. The theme was based on the Bible passage above. "Sent to Serve" is lived out daily at St. John's. There were many servants who have made the 2020 – 2021 school year a success. St. John's was blessed with parent volunteers who assisted in taking temperatures of students at the beginning of each day. St. John's is blessed with a dedicated and professional teaching staff who show the love of Jesus to their students each and every day. Volunteers from St. John's school family served by doing maintenance in the building and tidying up the campus. St. John's students are "Sent to Serve" by assisting in leading chapel services, giving weekly chapel offerings and serving the community by cleaning up Wilson Park.

St. John's school year will end on Friday June 4th. We have successfully navigated the restrictions and mitigations brought forth by the Covid-19 pandemic. By God's grace we were able to provide a quality Christian education for our students. We will end the year with an all school chapel service. St. John's will be holding an in-person graduation and dinner for our 13 eighth graders and their families on June 4th.

St. John's will be saying farewell to Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Leslie Johnson at the end of this school year. Countless students and their families have been blessed by her dedicated service. Thank you, Mrs. Johnson, for your service to St. John's Lutheran Church and School. May God bless your retirement.

Principal Green

Voter's Meeting Election Outcomes: The following Board members were elected at the May 2021 Voter's meeting. Please pray for them during their two year term. President - Adam Neubauer | Secretary - Renee Burden | Elders - Timothy Eischen, Terry Dunn, Aaron Doehring, Jarvis Smallfield | Trustees - Terry Wilcak, Ron Byall, Tim Wier, Don Erber, Robert Kraak | BoCE - Renee Bohus, Emma Byall, Tom Clark, Kara Clemente, Micky Maciejewski | Youth – Vacant, Requests were declined | HK Board – Linda Galek and Tom Clark.

The Henry Knueppel School Endowment Committee is pleased to be able to distribute \$56,178 from the Fund for its 19th anniversary. This money is given to the following areas:

- 30% to the AGAPE Fund which helps supplement tuition where needed
- 30% divided among the eleven full-time teachers
- 15% is used for educational purposes
- 25% is discretionary and will be used toward a new telephone system

The endowment fund was started in 2002 to honor the retired teacher, Henry Knueppel for his years in the teaching ministry at St. John's. Contributors to the fund have been members and alumni of St. John's, friends and family. Contributions, great or small, are thankfully appreciated and receive a personal thank you from Mr. Knueppel. If you wish to do so, please send your donation to St. John's Lutheran Church along with your check made out to the Henry Knueppel School Endowment. Thank you!

Ladies Book Club: In June the Ladies Book Club will re-reading The Last Castle by Denise Kiernan. It is the story of Biltmore, a European-style estate built by George Vanderbilt in rural North Carolina. Frederick Law Olmstead designed the landscape and Richard Morris Hunt designed the chateau. Having been lucky enough to stay on the grounds and tour the house when I traveled to North Carolina, I am eager to learn more about its history and the family who lived there. The Book Club meets via Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.



From the Music Department: It was great to have the Chancel Bell Choir play for Easter and Pentecost. The group sounded great on both occasions. I plan on getting the Chancel Bells back together on a regular basis in the fall. We also may need a couple of new ringers in the fall. If you are interested in joining the group, call me or email me at meggert@stjohnschicago.org

We also had the organ tuned recently and the organ trumpets repaired. The organ sounds great playing back in tune. The church pianos will be tuned early in June.



Mrs. Johnson is retiring!



Celebrate with us as we rejoice in the retirement of Mrs. Leslee Johnson. A memory book is being put together of all the wonderful memories from past teachers, alumni, and parents. If you have a memory you would like to share, please email it to office@stjohnschicago.org and we will be sure to include it in this wonderful memory she will cherish for years to come. If you would like to contribute a monetary gift, please send to St. John's c/o Mrs. Johnson's Retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS



St. John's Lutheran
Empowering. Enlightening. Enriching.

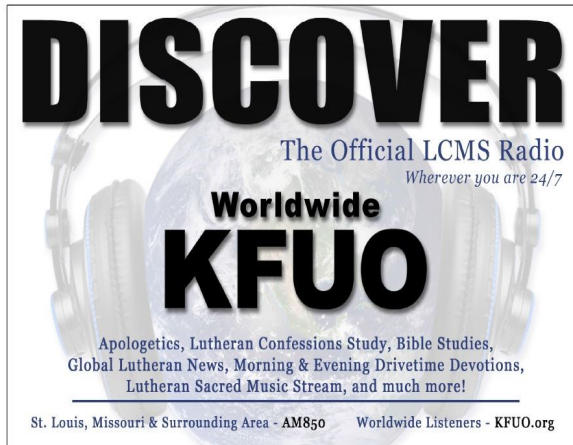


Congratulations are in order for **St. John's Lutheran School**
for achieving the first-ever
CLEF Medallion School of Distinction Program Badge!

The Assessment Team has completed their review, and has awarded
St. John's with the **Governance Badge**.

Under the area of School Leadership and Sustainability, St. John's exhibits
excellence in Governance: Board culture and climate promote and bolster the
school's mission and Christian values.

Well-done!



Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUD

Find and Listen at kfud.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUDradio.

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 KFUD 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.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

Happy June Birthday!

June 1st – Timothy Eischen, Ting Huie-Diaz, Dorothea Klawitter

June 3rd – Stephania Flechsig

June 11th – Daniela Spaid

June 12th – Carol Cowie, Nancy Gundlach

June 15th – Karen Drennen

June 16th – Roberta Wegner

June 17th – Lisa Prats

June 20th – Rocky Speciale

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, Ana Castro, Sandra Cho, Hasan Samarxhiu, Jenna Whalen,
Michael Whalen





June 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>

"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.