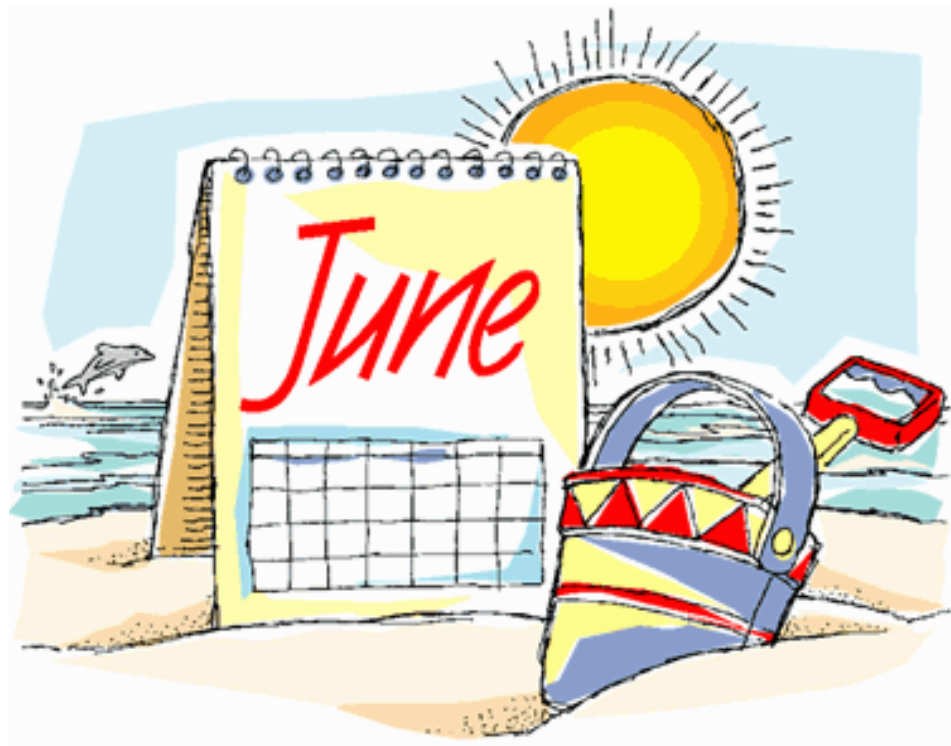




St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

June 2022 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."

From the Pastor: Faith Takes Practice

This summer I will be spending some time working on my dissertation and I wanted to give a brief summary of what I will be researching and writing about over the next several months.

Between 2009 and 2017, James K. A. Smith, a professor of philosophy at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI, wrote a trilogy of books that he calls *Cultural Liturgies*. In this series, he argues that humans are fundamentally desiring creatures who most often act based on habit rather than making rational decisions in every circumstance. These habitual actions are inscribed on us by formative practices. Think about when you brush your teeth in the morning—you don't consciously think through every step; you simply brush by habit (maybe even before you're fully awake!).

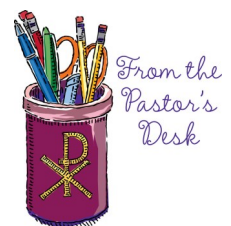
Formative practices that orient a person towards ultimate things—things that are good, true, and beautiful—he calls “liturgies.” While this word is often used of Christian worship, Smith suggests that formative practices in secular culture are every bit as “liturgical” as Christian worship is. Thus, if we are concerned about Christian formation, we must attend to our liturgy and recognize the competing liturgies that strive for the hearts and minds of Christians.

While I want to affirm Smith's basic assertion, there is also a problem that arises when you look at worship practices at a basic, human level. There is nothing to distinguish the practices of Christian worship from any other set of formative practices which would give Christian worship the power to overcome the formation inherent in secular liturgies. In order to provide a justification for Christian worship to matter more than the practices of say, a professional baseball game, I will look behind and beyond the practices of Christian worship to the *metaphysical basis for liturgical worship*.

Martin Luther developed a quite sophisticated metaphysical explanation for the connection between the divine and the material, both with respect to the Incarnation of Jesus and the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. By introducing these arguments, which Luther took over from the Middle Ages, I want to show that behind and beyond the practices of the Lord's Supper and Holy Baptism is the presence of God. Thus, the sacraments are the practices that all other worship practices are based upon. These two practices, because they mediate the presence of God, trump all other formative practices by orienting those who take part in them toward the kingdom of God.

The upshot is that worship in general, and preaching in particular, must work to reveal the presence of God in the practice of worship. The distinct way in which God is presence in the practices of Supper and Baptism is a formation of faith. In other words, faith takes practice, and by practicing the sacraments, we come to believe that God is truly present with us in worship.

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



Summer Worship Schedule: Starting June 5th, there will be one Divine Service at 9:30AM and one at 6PM every Sunday. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School this summer.

From the Principal: The 2021-2022 school year will come to a close in four days. While Covid has impacted the school again this year, we are learning to live with the virus and make adjustments as needed. St. John's was able to hold school events that we could not do when the pandemic first began. The school year will close on June 3rd, with an all-school chapel in the morning and eighth grade graduation and dinner beginning at 5PM.

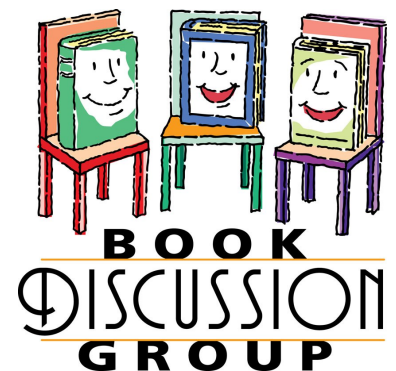
The following items I shared with the Voters Assembly on Sunday 05/22/2022:

- Revised school mission and vision statements as well as the school's core values. I will share these with you in future Eagle articles.
- School is on track for zero past due tuition and fees payments for the second consecutive year
- Past contributions to building expenses \$9,302.50. An additional contribution of \$12,950 will be given during the spring and summer.
- St. John's students have donated \$2,820.97 in chapel offerings to various organizations including Seminary Student Ben Heinz, Lutheran Church Charities, The Joined Hands Food Pantry, and several other local and national organizations.
- Enrollment projections are positive. St. John's is on track to exceed the budgeted enrollment number.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

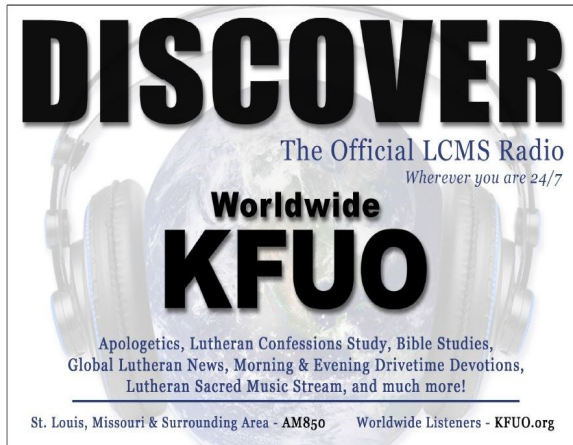
Principal Green

Ladies Book Club: In June the Ladies Book Club will be reading Ivory Shoals by John Brandon. The story takes place after the Civil War. A 12-year old boy decides to search for his father in Florida after his mother dies in Louisiana. He travels alone and meets some good and bad people on his journey. The Book Club still meets via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join.



Photos from the St. John's PTL Picnic:





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUD

Find and Listen at kfud.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUDradio](https://www.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 Lutheranos 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 Lutheranos 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!

June 1st - Timothy Eischen & Ting Huie-Diaz

June 3rd - Stephania Flechsig

June 6th - Dherek Gomez & Jonathan Kang

June 12th - Shylar Clemente, Carol Cowie & Nancy Gundlach

June 16th - Roberta Wegner

June 17th - Lisa Prats

June 18th - Henry Custer

June 20th - Rocky Speciale & Gavin Stinar

June 21st - Robert Anhalt, Vanessa Cho & Rebecca Wichner

June 22nd - Crystal Turrentine

June 23rd - Karin Woods

June 26th - Lauren Bakula & Jeremy Benedict

June 27th - Sara Maciejewski & Daniella Mack

June 28th - Lauren Callaghan

June 29th - Ana Castro, Sandra Cho, Hasan Samarxhiu &
Emma Webster



June 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.