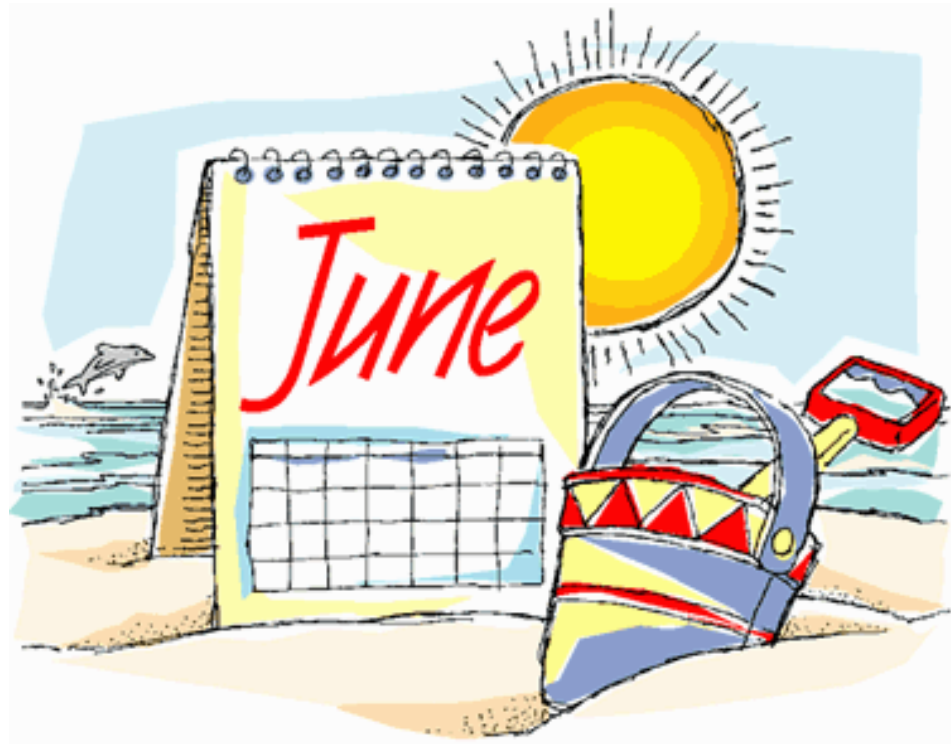




St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

June 2023 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: To Fill All Things

The book of Ephesians is an extended commentary on the ascension of Jesus. The letter's introduction indicates that the Father blesses us from **"the heavenly places"** (Eph. 1:3), and that this blessing was predestined from before the foundation of the world. St. Paul continues that the power of God was at work in Christ **"when he [the Father] raised him [Jesus] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come"** (Eph. 1:20–21).

The consequence of the resurrection and ascension is that **"he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all"** (Eph. 1:22–23). But what does it mean to **"fill all in all"**?

St. Paul returns to this theme in the fourth chapter, as he speaks of the new life that we have in Christ. **"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, 'When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.'** (In saying, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)" (Eph. 5:7–10).

Two things are notable about this passage. First, St. Paul quotes Psalm 68:18, but he inverts it. The Psalm says, **"You ascended on high leading a host of captives in your train and *receiving* gifts among men."** But now, St. Paul writes, he *gives* gifts. This shows that Christ is the one and only gift or sacrifice that is pleasing to God. Having accomplished that God-pleasing sacrifice, He now sits on heaven to give gifts. Christ inverts the scheme from sacrifice to sacrament.

Second, He fills all things. From the lowest regions of the earth to the highest. Jesus Christ, with His united and inseparable human nature, now transcends space in such a way that He is everywhere. But although He is present everywhere, there is a particular presence that is associated with His Word. With the preached Word, Jesus says, **"The one who hears you hears Me"** (Luke 10:16). With Holy Baptism, Jesus says, **"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"** (Matt. 28:20). And with His Supper, Jesus says, **"This is my body."**

He who fills all in all fills up the gifts He gives from the heavenly places in order to fill you with His grace.

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



From the
Pastor's
Desk

From the Principal: St. John's students completed the 2022-2023 quarterly cycle of the Measure of Academic Progress Tests during the first two weeks of May. The school wide composite percentile scores are in the table below. A 50% is considered average.

Subject	Math	Reading	Language Usage	Science
Percentile Rank	62%	62%	62%	64%

I want to take a moment to thank the members of St. John's for the support provided to me during my tenure here. While it wasn't easy, I believe I leave St. John's Lutheran School in a better place than when I arrived. Mechanisms are in place that if followed will continue the stability of the school and eventually lead to growth.

I truly believe that God calls people to specific places for specific reasons to serve for a specific time. It is clear that my time of service at St. John's has come to an end. Sue and I thank you for welcoming us into the St. John's family, even if it was for a short time. We pray that God continues to bless the school ministry at St. John's.

Principal Green

Coke Rewards Program: St. John's has collected Coca Cola product codes for years and the program is now ending. We have until the end of June to get these codes redeemed.

Please send any codes that you may have to the office or put them in yourself by going into CocaCola.com (donate to local schools) and entering St. John's School. In the search area you can type in Lutheran, 60641 and St. John's will pop up.

Thank you.

Coca-Cola North America



REDEEM YOUR POINTS!

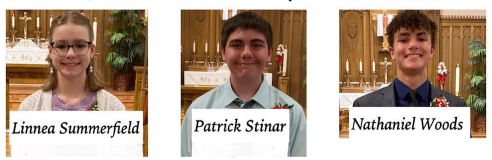
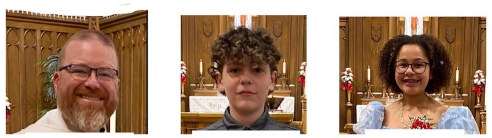
The product codes, found under Coca-Cola bottle caps and on fridge packs, are going away, but there's still time to donate your codes to your favorite causes.

Through June 30, 2023, you can collect product codes and donate to the charities you love. For any schools that have not met threshold by June 30, The Coca-Cola Company reserves the right to direct the donation to an eligible non-profit organization.

Don't worry, in addition to prizes and exclusive experiences, our **tone** program has new ways for you to give back to the causes that mean so much to you.

If you have any questions, please check out our [FAQs](#).

Confirmation Class and Picnic Photos:



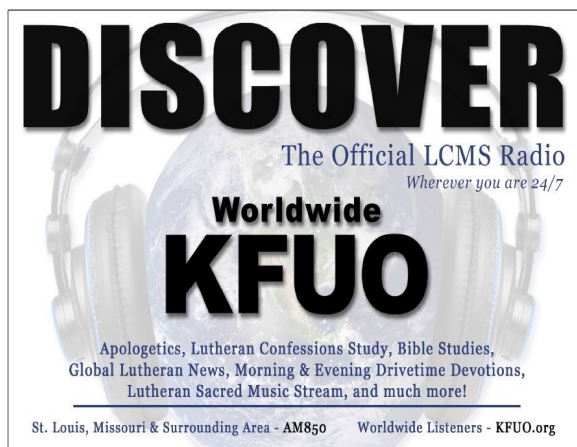
The 16th District Police Station put out an email asking for help with meals and basic needs for the refugees living in the lobby. We at St. John's stepped up and were able to feed 23 refugees dinner on Thursday May 11th!

Thank You to everyone that donated to this cause!

THthank you!**!**

Also, thank you Bonnie Mayrens and Veronica Gahgan for helping make the dinner.





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at kfuo.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio).

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 KFUO 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.





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 Birthday To Everyone Born in June!



June 1st

Timothy Eischen,
Jerod Ferry & Ting Huie-Diaz

June 3rd

Stephania Flechsig

June 6th

Dhereck 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

Sandra Cho,
Hasan Samarxhiu & Emma Webster



June 2023 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS



What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.