



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

March 2021 Eagle Newsletter



LENT BEGINS

Luke 4:1-2 ESV

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

Rebooting Easter

Last year's Holy Week and Easter observances were interrupted by a nearly universal stay-at-home order. While we recognize that the church stands under the jurisdiction of no authority save the Word of God, we also made the decision to abide by the guidance of health experts and our elected officials to cancel in-person worship for most of Lent and the entire season of Easter. Since then, we've learned how to hold in-person worship safely and by God's grace have remained open without any major interruptions.

While the news is getting better by the day with respect to vaccinations and the natural ebb and flow of a viral outbreak, this spring's Easter season will require some cautious optimism. We are committed to maintaining regular worship services with the precautions we've become accustomed to. While Easter services are typically one of the most well-attended services of the year, we do not anticipate the need to put any kind of reservation system in place.

The schedule for this year's Holy Week and Easter celebrations will be as follows:

Sunday, March 28th: Sunday of the Passion with a Procession of Palms at 8AM, 11AM, & 6PM

Thursday, April 1st: Holy Thursday with Stripping of the Altar at 7PM

Friday, April 2nd: Good Friday Chief Service with Holy Communion at 4:30PM

Friday, April 3rd: Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers at 7PM

Saturday, April 4th: Easter Vigil at 7PM

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30AM

Sunday, April 5th: Easter Divine Service at 8AM, and 11AM (no 6PM)

Regular Sunday services will be streamed at 11AM. All additional services will also be streamed on our YouTube page. Please subscribe to our page at youtube.com/stjohnschicagolcms and click on the bell to receive alerts for new videos and streams.

I am also available for brief individual communion services during Holy Week. Please contact the church office at 773-736-1112 or email me at pastor@stjohnschicago.org to schedule a time. Individual services of holy communion are between 15-20 minutes in length.

While things are certainly still a little different than in the past, we rejoice to be able to gather around the gifts of God and celebrate our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection this year.

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club will be meeting at the end of February to discuss our book and choose our books for next year. If you would like to participate in our Zoom meeting at 7:30PM on the last Tuesday of the month, please contact Betty Carey.

Midweek Lenten Service Schedule: Wednesday Vespers at 7PM.

Need Help on Boards: St. John's elections are in May 2021 and we need help on almost every board. Please contact Adam Neubauer Neubauer.adam@gmail.com if you can serve.



Principal's Report: February has traditionally been the month when enrollment opens for the next school year. On February 18, 2021 St. John's hosted an Open House for prospective new families. Sixteen families attended and several have already completed enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Reenrollment also opened up on February 18th for current St. John's students. As of this writing, 52 students are already enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year.

St. John's remains relatively Covid – 19 free. No student nor staff has tested positive for the virus. The school continues to follow the safety and health protocols. Many faculty and staff have received their first vaccine. Some have been able to get the vaccine from their health care provider or national drug store chain. The Northern Illinois District of the LCMS partnered with the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Hebrew Schools of Chicago to offer Covid – 19 vaccines to teachers and staff from those organizations. Several teachers including myself took advantage of this program.

St. John's has also completed the winter Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Tests. The results will be reported to you in the March Eagle Newsletter. Early reports indicate that many students made substantial progress from the fall session.

Lastly, I want to thank all of those who have made donations to the various fundraising initiatives that have been taking place. Several of St. John's school families have also made generous donations. These donations will enable the school to purchase classroom air purifiers/sanitizers. Thank you for all your support.

Principal Green

Deadline for Thrivent: Members who qualify to receive "Choice Dollars" from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans please be informed that the deadline for designating your money to your chosen institution (which we'd appreciate being either St. John's Lutheran Church or St. John's Lutheran School) is March 31, 2021. You can call any time prior to March 31st by calling 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice." A person will come on the line and help you direct your Choice Dollars. Thank you for being good stewards of your free money to your chosen institution.

Girl Scouts: St. John's Girl Scout Troop 20010 is selling cookies. All of your favorites are available: Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, S'mores, Toffee-tastic and Lemon-ups, each for \$5.00. The best part is that you may order from the comfort of your own home, virtually. You have the option to ship your cookies or have them delivered to your home! Order via the link here:

<https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/troop20010-430>

Contact rbohus2@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you in advance for your support.





In order to enhance the beauty of the chancel for Easter, orders are now being taken for Lily, Hyacinth and Tulip plants. These plants will be delivered to church, placed in the chancel, and may be picked up after the last service of Easter Sunday (plants may also be picked up the following week in the office.) Plants not picked up will be given to the homebound.

The cost of one plant is \$10.00. If you wish to place an order, please fill out the form below and return it to the office, Altar Guild window in the narthex or drop it in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____


In Honor of: _____

Will pick up _____ yes _____ no

Lily _____ Hyacinth _____ Tulip _____

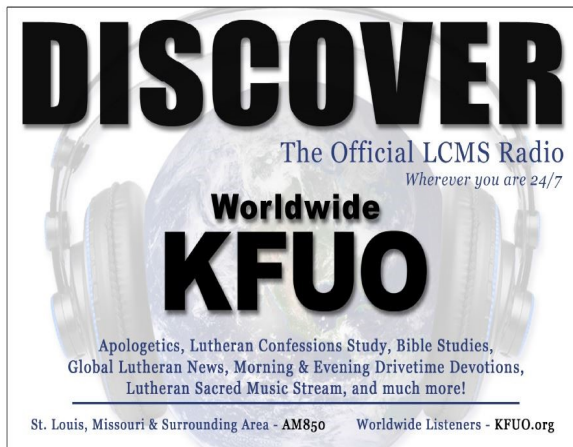
Phone Number: _____

Paid: Check # _____ or Cash _____



HELP NEEDED

It has come to our attention that Norm Hendricksen has not been laid to rest after his passing in November. Norm held many offices of leadership roles in the church and school and after retiring as a Police Sergeant with the Chicago Police Department he volunteered many hours here at St. John's. His son Andy unexpectedly passed away last week. A memorial fund has been set up to help defray the cost of burial for Norm and Andy Herdricksen. Checks are to be made out to St. John's.



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!

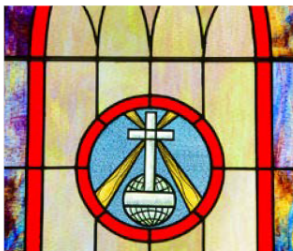
Cross Defense—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

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.





MARCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

WORLDWIDE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION — MARCH 1-31

The LCMS provides theological education throughout the world by means of seminaries and missionaries. Scholars and leaders from foreign church bodies also come to the LCMS seminaries for advanced degrees, learning sound doctrine from the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions.

Remember the centrality of God's Word as you pray:

- 1.** for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, that all there might grow in the Word and prepare for the proper proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments.
- 2.** for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., that the faculty might teach the Word in its truth and purity; and the students learn God's Word in preparation for ministry.
- 3.** for Christ's work throughout the world, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins delivered through the Means of Grace.
- 4.** for Concordia Seminary, Hong Kong, that people and

pastors might be trained there to proclaim the Gospel.

- 5.** for Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, Papua New Guinea, that God would strengthen and preserve the seminary to prepare the pastors of the Gutnius Lutheran Church to convict people with God's law and heal them with the word of Absolution.
- 6.** for Japan Lutheran Seminary in Tokyo, Japan, that our Lord, Jesus Christ, would make the seminary a place where the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity.
- 7.** for Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India, that the Lord would preserve the seminary from all evil and lead it to become a bastion of the

Gospel against the attacks of the wicked foe.

- 8.** for Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Birip, Papua New Guinea, that the Lord would use the instructors to shine His Word upon the path of students preparing to serve His Church.
- 9.** for students and professors of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City, Philippines, that they might serve the Lutheran Church in the Philippines faithfully.
- 10.** for Luther Seminary in Seoul, South Korea, that the Lord would preserve those who teach and those who learn to hold fast to His Word in all circumstances.
- 11.** for the ministry carried out through the Westfield House of Theological Studies in Cambridge, England, as this ministry trains church leaders for England and many other church bodies around the world.

12. for the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo, that theological training for men from French-speaking countries in West Africa might continue.

13. for Concordia Reformer Seminary, Dominican Republic, that the students there might share the Gospel throughout Latin and South America.

14. for the Synod's Global Seminary Initiative (GSI), which helps to fill the need for trained church leaders who are native to the region and cultures in which they serve, that God would guide this program to strengthen the formation of pastors and deaconesses around the world.

15. for LCMS professors and pastors who travel overseas to teach seminars and intensive courses for our current and emerging church partners, that God would grant them safe travel and fruitful labors.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/VERIK M. LINSFORD

MARCH Pray For Us Calendar

16. for the international students who come to the Synod's seminaries, that God would grant safe travels and comfort while away from family and friends.

17. for Lutheran pastors worldwide, that they would have access to the necessary books and resources to teach Law and Gospel.

18. for the health and safety of LCMS missionaries who provide theological education, thanks that they have heeded the call to serve Christ in this way.

19. for Lutheran church workers in Europe, that their work is fruitful.

20. for the seminaries of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would faithfully educate future leaders for their churches.

21. for the Gospel multiplication as pastors are equipped to teach their flocks and train new leaders for the church, thank God for the growth of His Kingdom.

22. for the continued growth of Christ's Church on earth, that the Lord would continue to raise up missionaries according to His good and gracious will.

23. for Lutherans throughout the world, that they rejoice in God's gifts of His Word and Sacraments.

24. for the Synod's generous donors, thanks for those who make it possible for LCMS theological education around the world.

25. The Annunciation of our Lord, thank God for sending His Son into our flesh.

26. for our partner churches, that God would raise up pastors and servants to serve His people.

27. for sound doctrine throughout the world, that God would preserve the truth of His Word against false teachings.

28. for those on vicarage from our partner seminaries, that God would bless their time in the field as part of their education.

29. for seminarians' wives, that they would be prepared to support their husband's call into ministry.

30. for seminarians' children, that they rejoice in the Gospel and in their father's calling.

31. for all who listen to those who receive theological education, that the Gospel might take root and produce fruit.



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

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/VERIK M. LINSFORD

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- March 1st** -- John Straszynski
March 2nd -- Niki Gernhofer
March 3rd -- Cherie Russo
March 5th -- Wolfgang Fey, Annemarie Hungerland,
Steven Mackie
March 6th -- Caitlyn Wheeler
March 7th -- Dolores Schmoltd
March 10th -- Tammy Straszynski
March 11th -- Terrence Dunn
March 12th -- Lawrence Pankonin
March 13th -- Midge Klein
March 18th -- Amy Shearer
March 20th -- Bernard Giess
March 22nd -- Michelle Castro, Marcy Riley
March 28th -- Rachel Benedict
March 29th -- Nicholas Penland, Michelle Runge
March 30th -- Joe Ferenc
March 31st -- Marlene Dunn, Morgan Sanders

March 2021 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS



Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters.

And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.