



**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church  
& School

March 2022 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 <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

## Introducing the Catechumenate: Time of Catechesis

Catechesis is the word that has been used to describe the Church's way of teaching the faith. It comes from a word that means "with an echo." *Catechesis* is a method of teaching where a *catechist* asks a question of a *catechumen*, who responds to the question. Catechesis is a holy conversation about the Christian faith.

In the Catechumenate, catechesis happens whenever two or more people take part in a conversation about the Christian faith. But the dedicated Time of Catechesis is more focused. An early Time of Catechesis can precede enrollment in the Catechumenate, where catechumens and sponsors spend time discussing Scripture based on the weekly readings. This is a time to familiarize catechumens with the basic stories of Scripture and to provide opportunities to ask deeper questions.

An intense Time of Catechesis also happens between the Rite of Enrollment and the Rites of Initiation. Also called a Time of Preparation, in the ancient Church this time occurred during the season of Lent and was dedicated to giving the Creed (usually the Apostles' Creed) and the Lord's Prayer. In addition, catechumens were asked if they renounced the devil and all his works and all his ways. These practices are still included for us in our rites of Holy Baptism, Confirmation, and Baptismal Remembrance.

In contemporary applications of the ancient catechumenate, the time between the Rite of Enrollment and the Rites of Initiation is given to preparation for Baptism, Confirmation, and fellowship in the Eucharist. In the Lutheran Church, this means a sharp focus on the six Chief Parts of the Catechism.

Beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>, during our Bible study hour at 9:30AM on Sundays, we will gather together as a congregation for this Time of Catechesis and Preparation. I will be asking all members of the congregation to begin thinking of themselves as sponsors for those who are beginning their walk of faith. Please consider giving your support to our newest brothers and sisters in Christ during our Time of Catechesis.

In Christ,  
under the cross,  
Pastor Ehrhard



**Help Needed:** The Trustees need help with repairs around the church and school. If you are a handyman or handywoman and would like to help, please call Terry Wilczak at 708-243-8968.

**Principal's Report:** The Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation principals developed core values and mission and vision statements for CLEF schools. The next step was for the CLEF principals to develop core values and mission and vision statements for their individual schools. St. John's Lutheran School's core values and mission and vision statements are listed below.

### Core Values

Faith  
Family  
Community  
Love  
Service  
Academic Excellence

### Mission Statement

St. John's Lutheran School exists to provide a Christ-centered education in a safe environment to a culturally diverse student body that engages the whole child through an innovative and engaging academic program that promotes a love of learning and a life of service.

### Vision Statement

St. John's Lutheran School will be known for equipping learners from diverse backgrounds to become empathetic and loving citizens who positively impact their community and world by living out the Gospel of Jesus through a life of service.

### COVID-19

St. John's Board of Christian Education will be reviewing COVID-19 mitigations and protocols (including the mask mandate) at the March 8<sup>th</sup> BOCE meeting. Parents will be notified on March 9<sup>th</sup> of any changes to the current protocols. In the meantime, I ask that all who have business in the school building during the school day to continue to wear a mask.

*Thank you for your prayers and support!*

Principal Green

**Ladies Book Club:** The Ladies Book Club will be choosing books for the next year at our meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30PM via ZOOM. If you have any suggestions and would like to be included please reach out to Betty Carey at [bettydot65chevy@msn.com](mailto:bettydot65chevy@msn.com).





# Cookie Drive-Up & Diaper Drop-Off

**Saturday, March 5, 2022**  
**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

St. John's Lutheran Church & School Parking Lot  
@ Montrose & Laverne in Chicago

Girl Scout Troop 20010 is hosting a drive-up cookie booth for Girl Scout Cookies! Cookies are \$5 a box. We take cash and credit card.

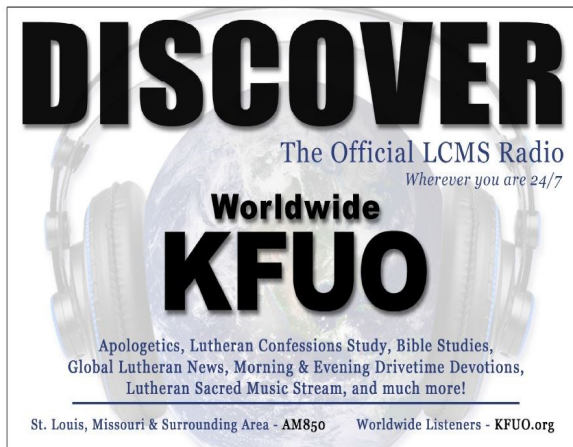
Online orders - <https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/troop20010-430>

We're also collecting unopened packages of diapers, pull-ups, and baby wipes to benefit Cradles to Crayons.

Questions? Email Renee Bohus at [rbohus2@gmail.com](mailto:rbohus2@gmail.com) or Tracy Baldwin at [feb618@yahoo.com](mailto:feb618@yahoo.com)

**Cradles  
toCrayons**

*Cradles to Crayons provides children from birth to age 12 living in low-income or homeless situations with the essentials they need to thrive at home, at school, and at play.*



## Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUORadio](https://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!

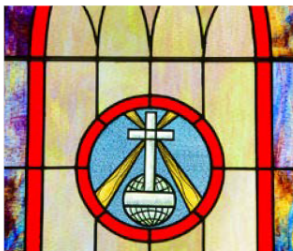
When a skeptic questions us about our faith, or when we ourselves have questions about what we believe, how do we answer them? Learn how to address modern-day issues and tough arguments levied against faith, *and* how to engage these conversations with intelligence and grace. Join us and discover how to share your faith clearly and lovingly.

**Free to be Faithful** — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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March 1st

John Straszynski

March 2nd

Niki Gernhofer

March 5th

Wolfgang Fey, Annemarie Hungerland &  
Steven Mackie

March 6th

Caitlyn Chavez

March 7th

Dolores Schmoldt

March 9th

Elijah McArthur

March 10th

Tammy Straszynski

March 11th

Terrence Dunn

March 12

Lawrence Pankonin

March 13th

Midge Klein

March 18th

Amy Shearer

March 21st

Joseph Paglini

March 22nd

Michelle Castro & Marcy Riley

March 28th

Rachel Benedict

March 29th

Nicholas Penland & Michelle Runge

March 31st

Marlene Dunn



## March 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS



Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30-34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.