



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

March 2023 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.

Hoc Est

In the early days of the Reformation, there were a number of prominent figures. Martin Luther became the leading figure of those who would come to be known as the Lutherans—although this was originally a derogatory name that Luther himself rejected; the first Lutherans called themselves ‘evangelical’ because of their focus on the *evangel*, or, the Gospel.

Another early figure in the Reformation was Ulrich Zwingli, a Swiss reformer. He and his followers found much in common with the Lutherans in rejecting the institutional power of the papacy, proclaiming salvation by faith apart from works, and criticizing the medieval sacramental system, where masses were bought and sold for profit.

However, there was a major difference. Zwingli, like Luther, rejected the doctrine of transubstantiation, which taught that the substance of the bread was replaced by the substance of Christ’s body at the moment of consecration. But, unlike Luther, Zwingli taught that the Lord’s Supper was *only* bread and wine, and that they only represent Christ’s body and blood. He argued that Jesus was using figurative language, or, a “trope,” in the words of institution.

After some time, the two camps agreed to meet in the town of Marburg for a colloquy (“discussion”) concerning Reformation teaching. They came to agreement on every point except the presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. Zwingli and his followers continued to look for ways to make Jesus’ words figurative language.

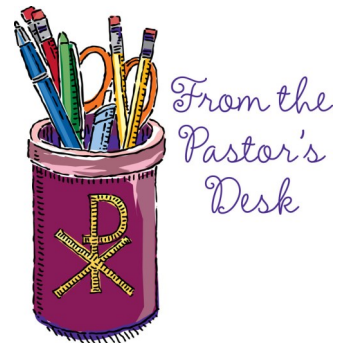
It is reported that Luther wearied of insisting on the words of Christ, took a piece of chalk, and wrote the words *Hoc est* on the table. *Hoc est* is the Latin phrase, “This is.” “This is my body,” says Jesus. Whenever Zwingli or one of his followers tried to turn it into a figure, Luther lifted the tablecloth and pointed to the words.

The words are what tell us what the sacrament is. “This is” means that the bread is, in some mysterious, sacramental way, also the body of Christ, and the wine His blood. But how can this be?

Next time: Introducing John Brenz.

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



Trustees News: The Trustees will be installing new LED lighting in the school in the near future. They also upgraded the outside security system and added 3 more cameras. 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: Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is off to a strong start. As of this writing, there are 104 students fully enrolled with another 34 in the pending category. It appears PK-4 and Kindergarten will have full classrooms. Interest in St. John's is strong. We have hosted several Open Houses and attendance has been very good. New family tours are being conducted every week. While this is all positive news, it appears that three classrooms will have student populations of less than 10 students. St. John's Board of Christian Education is studying this and the impact it potentially has on staffing and finances.

I have previously shared that St. John's engages in a Christian book study during their weekly prayer partner sessions. The book chosen for the upcoming session is One at a Time – The Unexpected Way God Wants to Use You to Change the World. The premise of the book is that while Jesus was surrounded by crowds during much of His ministry, He always took time to focus on the one! (See Luke 8 and John 5) Readers of this book are also encouraged to daily pray the prayer below.

Jesus give me your eyes for the one. Help me to see people the way you see people.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Principal Green

Thrivent Financial CHOICE DOLLARS: If you have an account with Thrivent Financial and have not already done so, you can still direct your 2022 Choice Dollars to St. John's church or school. Don't miss this opportunity that Thrivent gives you to direct "free" money, but do so before March 31st, 2023. You can do this by going to thrivent.com/directnow or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. Thank you for being a good steward.

From the Director of Music: The Chancel Bell Choir is getting back together to be ready for Holy week and Easter. We are starting off with rehearsals on Thursday, March 9th at 7PM, Thursday March 16th at 7PM, Sunday March 26th at 10:15AM, Thursday, March 30th at 7PM and Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 8PM for about a half hour after church. We do need a few more ringers for a full complement choir. If you are interested, please join us at our first rehearsal, March 9th, or call, text, or email me at meggert@stjohnschicago.org

Chancel Bells will be ringing for worship services on Palm Sunday April 2nd at 9AM, Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7PM and Easter Sunday April 9th at 9AM as well as a brass quartet and flutist complementing our Easter festival service.

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club is currently seeking suggestions for books to read in the next 12 months. If there are any you would like to recommend, please email Betty Carey. We are still meeting via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM.



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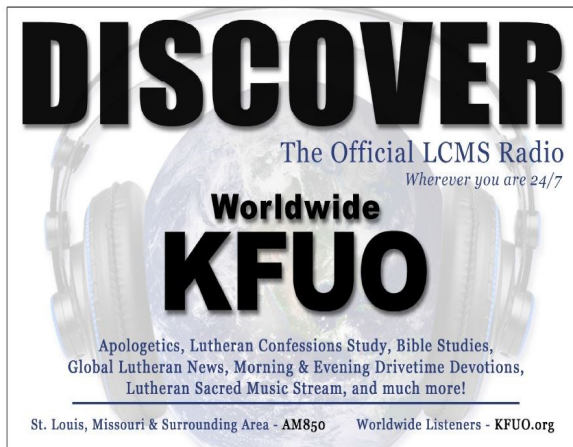
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Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUEO

Find and Listen at kfueo.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUEOradio.

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 KFUEO 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!

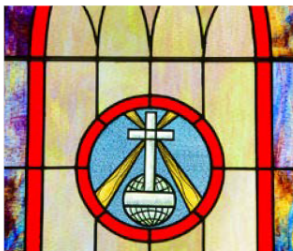
Cross Defense—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

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 1st

John Straszynski

March 5th

Steven Mackie

March 6th

Caitlyn Chavez

March 7th

Dolores Schmoldt

March 9th

Elijah McArthur

March 10th

Tamara Straszynski

March 11th

Terrence Dunn

March 12th

Joseph Barzano
Lawrence Pankonin

March 13th

Margaret Klein

March 18th

Isaiah Rayo

March 22nd

Marcy Riley

March 27th

Calla Thorbahn

March 28th

Rachel Benedict

March 29th

Michelle Runge

March 30th

Hayley Friend

March 31st

Marlene Dunn
Eric Hernandez



March 2023 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.