



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

March 2024 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.

A Holy Week Celebrated Wholly

The season of Lent concludes with the holiest week of the Church's year of grace. Holy Week is when we mark our Lord's passion beginning with His entrance into Jerusalem and culminating in His resurrection from the dead on the "eighth" day of the week. I encourage you to mark this time, too, by attending some of the most unique services of the year.

The Sunday of the Passion, otherwise known as Palm Sunday, involves a procession of palms and the reading of the passion account, this year according to St. Mark. We are inviting our school children to join us for this procession this year. It is a joyous day, but also somber, because, as the hymn says, Jesus rides on "in lowly pomp to die." Passion Sunday will be at our regular service times.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week are each given to the passion accounts from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. I do not have any specific services planned, but stay tuned for how you might participate in these "passion days."

Thursday of Holy Week is Holy Thursday. This day marks the institution of the Supper of our Lord, and we celebrate the Divine Service at 7PM with a little more joy than throughout the meager days of Lent. However, the service concludes with the ceremonial Stripping of the Altar, signifying how our Lord was stripped in preparation for crucifixion. Psalm 22 is our song as we depart.

Friday is Good Friday. There are many opportunities for you this year. From 12PM until 3PM, you can attend the Tre Ore (Three Hour) Service at Messiah Lutheran on Patterson and Melvina. I will be leading this entire service, but several area preachers will offer meditations on the seven words of Christ from the cross. Come for the whole thing, or visit for a half hour; you are free to come and go for prayer and meditation.

At 4:30PM we will have the Good Friday Chief Service at St. John's. This service contains many unique liturgical elements and recounts our Lord's passion and death. It concludes with a brief and subdued Service of the Sacrament.

At 7PM we will pray Tenebrae Vespers. Tenebrae means darkness and this service begins in light and ends in darkness as we contemplate our Lord's death and pray the Psalms that Jesus prayed. St. John's passion is the reading for Tenebrae.

The most unique service of the year is the Easter Vigil on Saturday at 7PM. The Vigil is made up of a Service of Light, Readings, Baptismal Remembrance, Gospel, and Supper. It is patterned on the Old Testament *pascha* as it was brought into its fullness in the New Testament.

Finally, we will celebrate Easter Sunday at a Sunrise Service at 6:30AM and Divine Service at 9AM. These will NOT be the same service, so you may even consider coming for both and joining me for pour-over coffee in-between. (Please note that there will be no 6PM service on Easter; I will be asleep ☺).

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday, March 24th at 9AM & 6PM - Sunday of the Passion with Procession of Palms

Thursday, March 28th at 7PM - Holy Thursday Divine Service with Stripping of the Altar

Friday, March 29th from 12–3PM - Tre Ore (3 hours) at Messiah Lutheran on Patterson and Melvina

Friday, March 29th at 4:30PM - Good Friday Chief Service

Friday, March 29th at 7PM - Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers

Saturday, March 30th at 7PM - Vigil of Easter

Sunday, March 31st at 6:30AM - Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, March 31st at 9AM - Resurrection of Our Lord Divine Service

Sound Project Photos:



Principal's Report: It is with great JOY that I announce to you that St. John's Lutheran School earned the Christian Principles & Spiritual Formation Badge from the CLEF (Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation) Medallion School of Distinction Program. In their final report, CLEF stated, "they communicated very clearly the Christian culture and climate which permeates St. John's school. We believe that St. John's is an exemplary Christian school, preparing young people to be successful for high school and life."

We have been busy throughout the month of February as our 7th & 8th Grade basketball season came to an end. Our boys team took first place in the Lutheran School League Tournament. Way to go, Eagles! We also opened enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Please spread the word to family and friends who may be looking for a new school - space is limited.

Join us on March 13th at Chipotle for Food & Fellowship and an opportunity to give back to St. John's. We would love for you to come see our 5th - 8th Grade perform "The Sound of Music" on Friday, March 15th or Saturday, March 16th (please see the attached flyer for ticket information). March 22nd will mark the end of our 3rd Quarter. The month will end with us pausing for Easter Break from Friday, March 29th through Sunday, April 7th.

Principal Runge

Ladies Book Club: The Ladies Book Club is currently compiling a list of books for March 2024 until February 2025. If you have any suggestions please contact Betty Carey. We continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM via ZOOM.





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT

NOW OPEN

**FOR THE 2024-25
SCHOOL YEAR**



Use the link or QR code
to apply!



*Space is
limited!*

<https://mytads.com/a/stjohnschicago>

Questions? marketing@stjohnschicago.org



CLEF

CHICAGOLAND LUTHERAN
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

St. John's Lutheran School
5th-8th Grade
Presents

The SOUND of MUSIC

YOUTH
EDITION

Friday
7pm

Saturday
2pm

March 15th & 16th

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: YOUTH EDITION 100%

Music by RICHARD RODGERS 75% *

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II 75% *

Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE
75%*

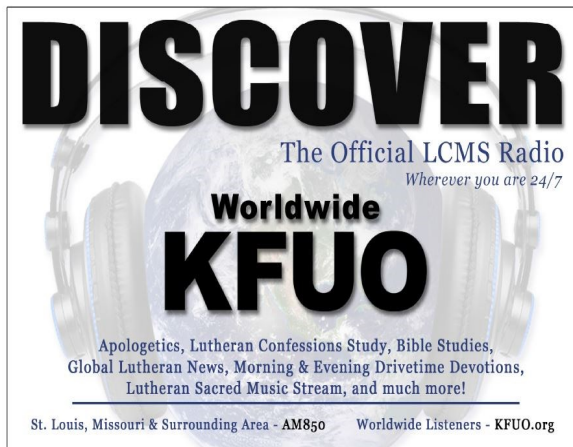
Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria
Augusta Trapp

Adaptation by
TOM BRIGGS and TIMOTHY ALLEN McDONALD

Purchase tickets by using the
QR Code
OR
click [HERE](#)



St. John's Lutheran School
4939 W. Montrose Ave.



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!

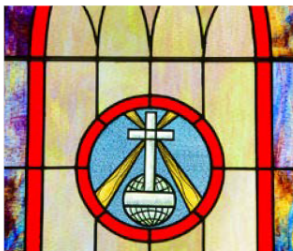
Cross Defense—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

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 5th**

Steve Mackie

March 6th

Caitlyn Chavez

March 9th

Elijah McArthur

March 11th

Terry Dunn

March 12th

Joey Barzano

March 13th

Midge Klein

March 28th

Rachel Benedict

March 29th

Michelle Runge

March 30th

Hayley Friend

March 31st

Marlene Dunn, Eric Hernandez
& Morgan Sanders



March 2024 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.