



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

May 2020 Eagle Newsletter

Memorial Day



John 15:13 ESV

Greater love has no one than this, that
someone lay down his life for his friends.

Returning to Church

The last several weeks have been a scramble, to say the least. After the rush of adjusting life to the present normal, we have mostly settled into a temporary way of doing life. At St. John's this means that only essential personnel are in the building throughout the week, services are pre-recorded and posted on Youtube, and we interact digitally.

But our thoughts are increasingly turning toward reopening, and when things can get back to normal. No one knows for sure when that will be, but it has become clear to me that "normal" won't happen all at once. The next weeks and months, possibly even into the next year, will require some sort of changed behavior and enhanced vigilance as we work to contain, treat, and hopefully overcome the new coronavirus and its associated disease, Covid-19.

This means that our return to church will be gradual. I will not outline specific steps in this newsletter. Instead, I will simply outline a broad approach and then send out a paper mailing to all members in May that sets out more specific details.

To guide my decision making, I will use the federal government's recently released three-phase plan for reopening the economy. Each phase requires that there be 14 consecutive days of decreasing cases and deaths associated with the disease before behaviors are relaxed. Each of these phases will feature some kind of enhanced vigilance against the spread of infection, whether it's some kind of social distancing, increased sanitation efforts, or altered worship schedule. Throughout the entire three phases, I will continue to provide some kind of video alternative on our Youtube channel on Sunday mornings for anyone who is still taking the precaution of staying at home.

I have also been looking at some opportunities to introduce some new worship and devotional practices. Our recorded Sunday morning services will feature the services of Matins and Morning Prayer. I am also planning a twice-daily devotion over 30 days in May, which will cover all 150 Psalms.

Stay tuned, be safe, and I am hoping to see you again soon!

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

From the Principal: It is a quite strange feeling when you step into the hallways of St. John's these days. Due to the Stay at Home Order, the halls full of the energy of 143 students are now silent. Instead of being greeted by the smiling faces of St. John's students, the hallway walls only can offer a blank stare. School is not in session on campus but St. John's Lutheran School continues to meet.

St. John's teachers began distance learning beginning on March 18th. The teachers have done a phenomenal job of first, getting up to speed with how to provide these opportunities and second, delivering instruction to their students. The teachers and I also continue to learn. The Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation continues to provide professional development for teachers and administrators.

I look forward to that day when the empty halls of St. John's are filled with the sounds of students excitedly going about their school day activities. While there will likely be changes to how we do school, we will be back together again! Enrollment is open for the 2020-2021 school year. As of this writing there are almost 100 students enrolled. If you know families looking for a Christian school for their children please recommend St. John's. If you have school age children, I invite you to enroll them at St. John's. Enrollment can be completed at this time of Social Distancing via St. John's web-site. Plans are underway to make the 2020-2021 school year will be a great year! Principal Green

Erna Morgan's Book: Please consider purchasing Erna Morgan's book and giving it a five star rating:

https://www.amazon.com/Umbar-Bin-Ich-Somme-Gesharet/dp/B0875XQPxR/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=erna%20morgan&qid=1587424526&sr=8-1&fbclid=IwAR0cor1SowLun06FKLphfEW666IMUix40gn2YqJdT3XydgGbXT7QoFip-wk

Concordia University Live Stream: Tune-in daily at 11AM, as we hear God's word, pray for one another, and remain united in the body of Christ. Watch here: www.cuchicago.edu/live

Monday - Concordia seniors Jason Kohm and Abby Deddens host the broadcast, as they reflect on how their faith has grown while at CUC. Tuesday - Dr. Patrick Bayens takes us down the road to Emmaus, using sacred art to retell the Easter story. **Wednesday - Concordia alum Pastor Jacob Ehrhard, St. Johns Chicago, preaches God's word for us.** Thursday - Professor Andy Peterson shares he thoughts about teaching and faith. Friday - More Bach with Boyer, Dr. Maurice Boyer shares resurrection insights from J. S. Bach's famous Easter Cantata, Christ Lay in Todesband-en (Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands).

Ladies Book Club: In May the Ladies Book Club will be reading A Star for Mrs. Blake by April Smith. In 1929 The United States Congress passed legislation to fund travel for mothers of the fallen soldiers of WWI to visit their son's graves in France. This emotionally charged historical novel tells the story of Cora Blake and 4 other mothers who travel to Paris to visit their son's graves.

If we are able to meet this month, it will be on Tuesday, May, 26th in St. John's Conference Room at 7PM. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. Reading this book or any other book, will be a worthwhile use of your free time.



Register for the 20/21 School Year

**Single Room Classes
Pre-School through 8th Grade**

- Watch for our "Virtual St. John's Tour" on our website or email for a tour appointment, office@stjohnschicago.org
- Click here to enroll: <https://mytads.com/a/stjohnchicago>
- Create an account on TADS
- \$500 New Family Tuition Discount (full time student)
- Additional \$500 if registered prior to June 1, 2020

St. John's Faculty and Staff—Virtual Fun Days

CRAZY HAIR DAY



Tourist Day



SPORTS TEAM DAY



Essential Workers Day



St. John's Picnic

June 7th
2020

CANCELLED

Due to Covid-19

Pandemic Support Line

The *Illinois Department of Human Services* has launched a support line called **Call4Calm** that is reachable via text. Individuals who want to speak with a mental health professional can text the word “TALK” to 552-020. Within 24 hours, that individual will receive a call from a mental health professional employed by a local community health center.

People can also text other terms, like “**unemployment**” or “**food**” or “**shelter**” to the same number to receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services. **Call4Calm** is free, and individuals who use it can remain anonymous.

Prayer Chain

Each Tuesday, a list of prayers is sent to members and friends of St. John’s who pray throughout the week for those listed in the Prayer Chain. Would you like be a prayer warrior? Simply send your email address to: office@stjohnschicago.org. Do you have a prayer request? Email that also or call Pastor at 773.736.3053.

No Cost Fundraisers

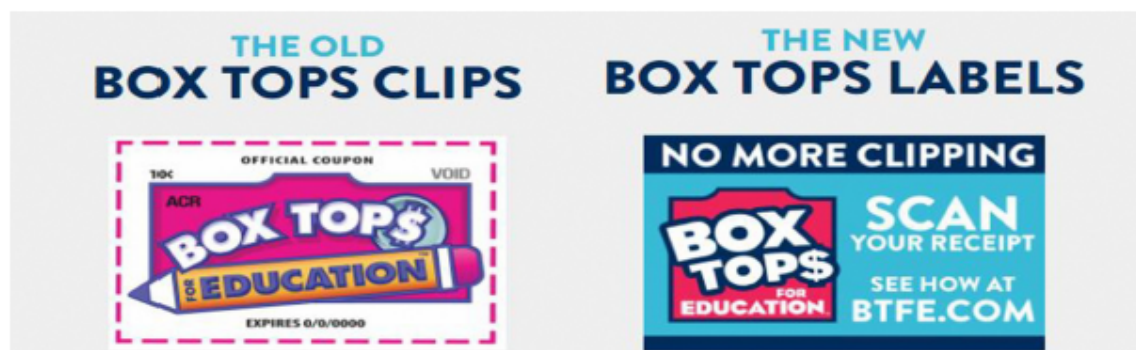


Simply take pictures of your grocery receipts. Every receipt results in a donation to St. John's. All you have to do is download the free app from Apple or Google Play. Once installed on your phone, select St. John Lutheran as your chosen cause. **NO STRINGS ATTACHED.** Just free money to St. John's.

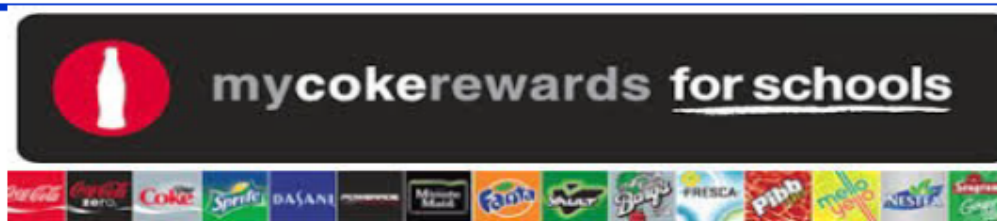


Amazon will donate .5% of all your purchases back to St. John's. To receive a donation you must shop through Amazon Smile. To set up your account with Amazon Smile, go to Smile.Amazon.Com and log into your Amazon account. Under the "pick your own charitable organization" tab, search for **St. John's Lutheran School, Chicago**. Click the "select" button next to our name. Then, just continue shopping Amazon as usual and we will receive .5% of every order you place. **THANKS!**

No Cost Fundraisers



If your food label looks like the image above left, please clip and send to St. John's. If your food label looks like the above image on the right, simply download the Box Tops app via Google Play or Apple. Search for "St John Lutheran School". Then simply scan your store receipts with eligible Box Tops products and credit will automatically be given to St. John's.

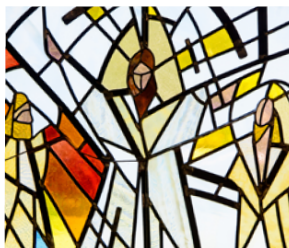


Every Coca Cola product that you purchase can earn money for St. John's. Save the caps or cardboard flap from 12-pack/24pack and drop off or mail to St. John's.

Or you may simply go to <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/> and scroll towards the bottom to "Donate to your local school". Type in 60641 and scroll until you find St John's Lutheran School—Chicago. St. John's account will automatically be credited each time you enter a code.

Here's where you will find the codes:





MAY

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

LCMS MISSIONARIES ON HOME SERVICE — MAY 1-15

Every other year, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) international missionaries spend approximately two months in the United States on "home service." During this time, they reconnect with the individuals, congregations and groups who support their mission work. Home service also gives them a period of rest and renewal and the chance to spend time with their families.

Remember God's work through missionaries on home service as you pray:

- 1.** for the LCMS missionary families who will be on home service in 2018. Ask the Lord to keep them safe during their travels.
- 2.** for God's hand to guide and bless the details and logistical arrangements that are a necessary part of missionary home service, such as transportation and housing.
- 3.** for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.

- 4.** for the Lord to guide missionaries as they prepare their presentations. Ask Him to help them to share their stories and ministry news with those who have so faithfully supported their ministry.
- 5.** for missionary families. Pray that God would give emotional, physical and spiritual strength as they travel, share with supporters and meet new friends.
- 6.** for missionary children. Pray that God would provide them with the opportunity to know that they are a vital part of their family's ministry.
- 7.** that many congregations all over the United States would

welcome missionaries into their churches for mission presentations, Sunday school, children's messages, celebration luncheons, Bible studies and other activities.

- 8.** that congregations and other groups would experience a revitalized interest in praying for missionaries and supporting their work, especially after visiting with them face-to-face and hearing about what God is accomplishing through them.
- 9.** that as missionaries share their experiences, the listeners would consider serving as a missionary themselves — in a short-term, long-term or career capacity.
- 10.** for the families of visiting missionaries, that they would enjoy their time together and mutually encourage one another.
- 11.** for God to comfort and sustain the missionaries who are not able to see family and friends in the United States this year. May they

Holy Spirit comfort them with His presence and assurance of God's calling to serve far from home.

- 12.** that missionaries would have an easy transition back to life in the United States — even for a short time during home service — with minimal effects of reverse culture shock.
- 13.** that the Lord would raise up supporters for missionaries who are struggling to finding the resources necessary for their ministry.
- 14.** with thanksgiving for the many forms of support and the joys the Lord provides to missionary families as they serve Him.
- 15.** that the conversations started during home service would continue long after the missionary has returned to the mission field. Pray that through ongoing communication, missionaries and supporters would encourage one another.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

MAY Pray For Us Calendar

PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16-31

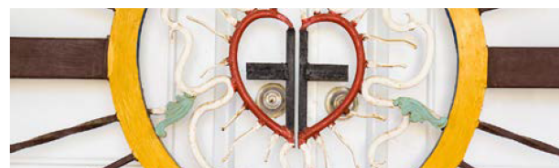
The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner churches came into existence through LCMS-supported mission efforts, while others have historic roots that pre-date the LCMS or that are sourced in the mission efforts of other Lutheran church bodies.

Remember God's work in His Church as you pray:

- 16.** for all LCMS partner churches, some of which only have a handful of congregations. Pray that they would never feel alone in their service to Christ and His Church.
- 17.** for LCMS partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray that God's Word would continue to spread throughout these countries to bring the Body of Christ together in fellowship and to be witnesses to His love.
- 18.** for LCMS partner churches in Africa. Pray that God would strengthen Lutheran Christians in this region to carry out their work for His name's sake.
- 19.** for LCMS partner churches in Asia, that God would guide and strengthen Lutheran Christians

in this region, especially in areas where it is difficult or dangerous to do His work.

- 20.** for LCMS partner churches in Eurasia. Pray that God would continue to use His Word as a light to those in darkness and as a stronghold for the life of His Church.
- 21.** with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches, that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy.
- 22.** for those who serve in leadership positions in LCMS partner churches around the world, as they guide, nurture and shepherd their people.
- 23.** for the laypeople of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would be fulfilled by God's Word and Sacraments.



24. that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world.

- 25.** for the Lutheran church bodies around the world interested in fellowship with the LCMS. Pray that God would guide the consideration process according to His will.
- 26.** in thanksgiving for those who pray continually for those who serve where spreading God's Word is difficult or dangerous.
- 27.** for Lutheran churches around the world that are dealing with strife between their members. Pray that the Lord would guide them to a peaceful resolution that would strengthen their witness to the community.
- 28.** for the Lutheran churches in Eurasia as they seek to minister

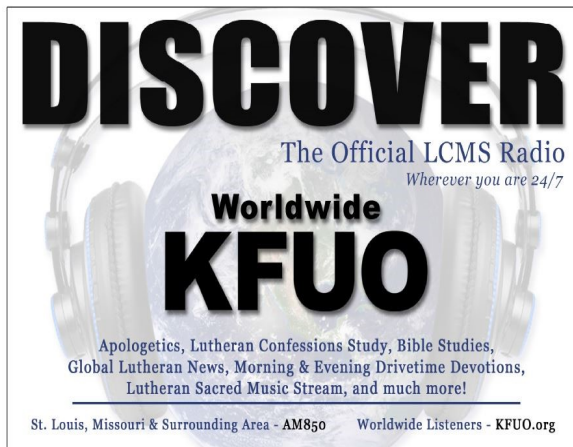
to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

- 29.** for all projects currently going on in LCMS partner church bodies, that each one would have the volunteers and resources necessary to carry out the work of the church as it shows mercy and provides physical and spiritual care for people around the world.
- 30.** for safe travel between and within countries in each world region. Pray that pastors, missionaries, medical teams and all who travel to assist partner churches would be kept safe and healthy, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to the far corners of creation.
- 31.** for all those still living in darkness, that the Gospel will be their light and life.

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.



PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD



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.





May 2nd

Joshua Ortega

May 3rd

Christopher Kapusniak
Laurene Lohman

May 4th

Linda Newcomb

May 5th

Joyce Owen

May 6th

Thomas Clark
Mary Zanders

May 8th

James Van Tilburg

May 12th

Sarah Andrich
Jim Franz
Donald Kehr

May 14th

Ronald Wichner

May 16th

Mark Waldo

May 17th

Sue Griesmann

May 18th

Ronald Byall

May 19th

Nancy Pankonin

May 20th

Deborah Kraak
Karen McLane
Gary Sobiek
Leonard Tornabene

May 21st

Heather Helfen
Judy Sobiek

May 23rd

Brian Dunn

May 25th

Kevin Randel

May 26th

Austin Tully

May 27th

Wayne Wenzel

May 28th

David Osmon

May 30th

Leslee Johnson

May 31st

Joanne Peck



May 2020 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." (John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job's already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus' example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It's also our Lord's command. "The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity." (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. "Each as he purposes in his heart," as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God's gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. We should support the Lord's work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.