



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

May 2022 Eagle Newsletter

# Memorial Day



**John 15:13 ESV**

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

## Introducing the Catechumenate: The Time of Enculturation

After welcoming new members through the Rites of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), catechesis has not come to an end. Rather, it takes on a new dimension in providing an ongoing framework for understanding the significance of living a baptized life in connection with the ministry of the Word and the Supper. This period of time has gone by many names, but I have become accustomed to calling it the Time of Enculturation.

This name indicates that particular congregations where baptisms and confirmations are performed and where the Eucharist is distributed, have their own culture and character. St. John's in Chicago has a much different congregational life than Trinity in New Haven or Emmanuel in Dwight. The Time of Enculturation is a time to acquaint new members with the life of the congregation.

Formerly, this may have been called assimilation, but that term has always sounded a bit harsh to me. In the early church, this time was called *mystagogy*, which was a period of instruction on the *mysteries*, that is, the sacraments. Catechumens in the early church would be brought to the *mysteries* with little to no explanation of what they were about to encounter. This kept the rites of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist mysterious; only afterward would the pastor explain the significance of these rites.

In our situation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Time of Enculturation would include, first and foremost, continued instruction in the significance of worship. It also includes Bible study and fellowship activities with the congregation. Because of the pandemic, our Bible study and fellowship opportunities have been limited as we focused on the one thing needful. However, we are moving toward a return to a fuller congregational life.

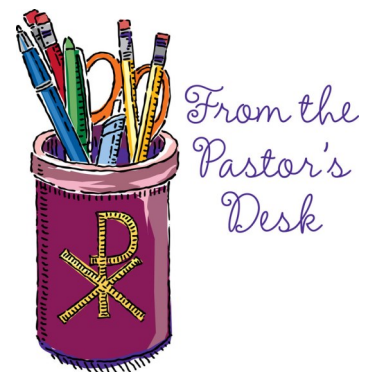
Beginning on the first Sunday in May, we'll gather during our Bible study hour at 9:30AM for *Incar-nate Community*, a Bible study prepared by the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS. Following these four sessions, I'll take two weeks to talk about my dissertation research, which I'll be spending a significant amount of time on this summer.

I hope you'll be able to join us for this Time of Enculturation.

In Christ,

under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



**Ladies Book Club:** In April, the Ladies Book Club read A Most Beautiful Thing by Arshay Cooper. It is the true story of the first African American rowing team which formed here in Chicago on the West Side. It turned life around for many at risk youth and showed the power of mentorship. In April we will be reading or rereading another classic: Up the Down Staircase by Bel Kaufman. Reading it as an adult gives a perspective on the challenges teachers and students did and still face in our educational system. The Ladies Book Club still meets virtually via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to participate at [bettydot65chevy@msn.com](mailto:bettydot65chevy@msn.com)



**From the Principal:** St. John's has been recommended for Full Accreditation by the National Lutheran Schools Validation Team. The recommendation will be presented to the Northern Illinois District NLSA Accreditation Committee. Assuming the committee approves the recommendation from the validation team, the recommendation will be sent to the LCMS – NLSA Accreditation Committee where upon approval, official notice of accreditation will be sent to St. John's. Some highlights from the report are listed below.

#### **Outstanding Strengths:**

- The school offers a variety of financial assistance options.
- Technology is integrated across the curriculum and operation of the school.
- Technology equipment is abundant to support learning excellence.
- Music resources are plentiful to support quality music instruction.
- Leadership is focused and dedicated.
- The teachers are perceived as dedicated, loving, and willing to meet students' needs above and beyond their normal teaching responsibilities.

#### **Major Deficiencies:**

- None

Additionally St. John's faculty and staff identified eight concerns and strategies for remediation. The validation team identified four additional concerns and strategies for remediation. Many of the concerns and strategies for remediation are minor and will be addressed quickly while others, especially those related to Standard Two – Relationships, will take some time in addressing and remediating.

The full report has been shared with the faculty, staff, and BOCE. The report will be shared with the Church Council at the April meeting. The report is a confidential document but congregation members may view the report in my office. More details will be shared with the congregation at the May Voters Assembly.

**Thank you for your prayers and support!**

Principal Green

**May 2022 Voters Meeting:** The Voters Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:15AM in the church. We will present the next fiscal year budget.

**Ascension Day Service:** St. John's will have a Divine Service for the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

**Music News:** A big thank you to all the Chancel Bell ringers for playing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Emma Webster - thank you for being part of the group; we will miss you.

The handbell choir will need a few new members. If you're interested in ringing, please contact Mark Eggert via email or in person. [meggert@stjohnschicago.org](mailto:meggert@stjohnschicago.org)

**St. John's PTL Spring FUNdraiser:** EVERYONE is invited to the PTL FUNdraiser on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Schiller Woods from 12PM-4PM. Please see the flyer on the next page for complete details. Although it is our main goal to bring together families for a great time socializing, we are still hoping to raise much needed funds for our school. Donations for the raffle and/or silent auction are greatly appreciated.

- Donate an item: Anything will be gratefully accepted!
- Donate a service: Do you have a special talent? Are you a dog walker, photographer, handyman, etc? Any service you are willing to provide would be amazing!
- Donate an experience: Do you have season tickets? Do you own/work at a restaurant? Do you have a vacation rental? The possibilities are endless!
- Secure a donation from a person or company you know or patronize. Please contact PTL to get a donation request letter if you need one.
- Give a monetary donation to have items purchased for the raffle. We are more than happy to do the shopping for you!

We would also welcome with open arms anyone who would like to give a hand that day or help us in the planning. If you want to help or have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact PTL by emailing [PTL@stjohnschicago.org](mailto:PTL@stjohnschicago.org) or calling/texting Jennifer Stinar at 773-999-6524. We hope to see everyone at the picnic!



# **YOU ARE INVITED...**

## **St. John's PTL**

# **Spring FUNdraiser**

## **What? A PICNIC**

Bring your chairs and other picnic supplies for an afternoon of fun to support St. John's. Games and entertainment for the whole family. Food and drinks for sale (or bring your own). Buy raffle tickets to win fabulous prizes and bid on silent auction items.

*Rumor has it you may even get to "DUNK" some of your favorite teachers!*

**Who?**

# **EVERYONE**

School Families \* Church Families \* Relatives \* Friends \* Neighbors  
Invite anyone and everyone you know to come have a great time while supporting our school!

**When?**

**Saturday, May 21st**  
**12:00pm-4:00pm**

**Where?**

**Schiller Woods**  
**8400 W. Irving Park Rd. Grove 12**

**Why?**

Funds raised will be used for much needed playground upgrades and recess enhancements.



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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 the

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

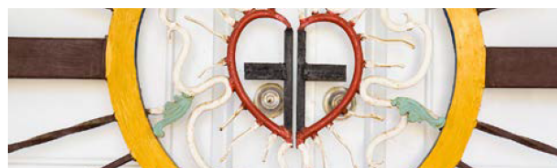
The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner 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

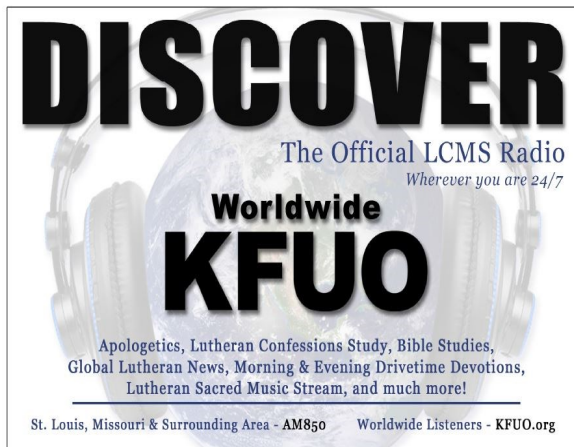
to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

- 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](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



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**Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO** Find and Listen at:  
[kfuo.org](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christopher Kapusniak

May 4<sup>th</sup> - Linda Newcomb & Kaimi Wo

May 5<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Owen

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Thomas Clark, Lucia Toledo & Mary Zanders

May 8<sup>th</sup> - James Van Tilburg

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Andrich

May 14<sup>th</sup> - Ronald Wichner

May 18<sup>th</sup> - Ronald Byall

May 19<sup>th</sup> - Emma Kapusniak & Nancy Pankonin

May 20<sup>th</sup> - Deborah Kraak, Karen McLane, Gary Sobiek & Leonard Tornabene

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Heather Helfen & Judy Sobiek

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Brian Dunn

May 26<sup>th</sup> - Austin Tully

May 27<sup>th</sup> - Wayne Wenzel

May 28<sup>th</sup> - Alejandra Farr & David Osmon

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Leslee Johnson

May 31<sup>st</sup> - Joanne Peck





## May 2022 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.