



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

May 2024 Eagle Newsletter

Memorial Day



John 15:13 ESV

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

From the Pastor

First Communion Prior to Confirmation

When the Agenda to the *Lutheran Service Book* was released in 2007, it included a rite of “First Communion Prior to Confirmation.” Its inclusion arose from a more in-depth study of the practice of confirmation in the Lutheran Church. One of the most complete studies of confirmation is Arthur Repp’s *Confirmation in the Lutheran Church*. The big takeaway from Repp’s study is that there has never been a consistent practice of confirmation in the Christian Church and that the Lutheran Church has featured six different types of confirmation. Here’s a summary (if you’re interested in further information, I will provide additional notes):

- Confirmation history in the Christian Church
 - Early Church: immediately followed baptism as a symbolic “strengthening” of the newly baptized with the promise of the Holy Spirit; mostly adult converts
 - Medieval Church: confirmation separated from baptism; performed by the bishop; became its own “sacrament;” promised new grace on top of baptism
 - Post-Reformation: Catholic church solidified confirmation as sacrament; Protestant churches turned it into a course in doctrine and a passage to adulthood
- Six types in the Lutheran Church
 - Catechetical; Hierarchical; Sacramental; Traditional; Pietistic; Rationalistic
 - Elements of all six present in contemporary practice of confirmation
 - Hierarchical type is dominant today: confirmation as commitment to the church and gateway to Communion
 - Lutheran Reformation held to catechetical type: catechesis as preparation for the Lord’s Supper; not tied to any age, children were brought when they were ready

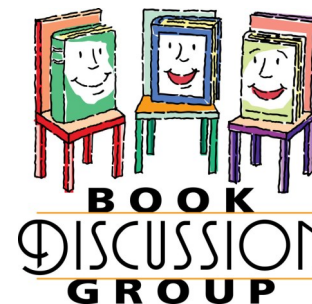
The rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation is a way to recapture the Reformation understanding of confirmation. It is designed for children to begin to learn the catechism and to participate in the Sacrament of the Altar. Rather than tying the Lord’s Supper to a given age or grade level, this practice ties the reception of the Sacrament to that which makes a person truly worthy and well prepared: *Faith in these words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins” (Small Catechism).*

This year I am preparing one of our youth for first communion, which will happen on Trinity Sunday, May 26. If your son or daughter has expressed interest in the Lord’s Supper, I would be happy to talk with you further about preparations for first communion prior to confirmation. And regardless, it is never too early to begin working on the chief parts of the Small Catechism and growing more deeply in understanding of, appreciation for, and faith in the teachings it presents.

In Christ,
under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



Ladies Book Club: In May the Ladies Book Club will be reading Seven Days in May by Fletcher Knebel and Charles W. Bailey II. This work of fiction was written in 1962 during the Cold War with Russia. The plot is about military and Congress members who mastermind a plot to overthrow the President. It's an interesting read. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.



From the Principal: And in what feels like a blink of an eye, the last month of the 2023-2024 school year is upon us. Our theme this school year was "Connected" based on John 15:5 - *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* As a school we will continue to remind our students of all of the meaningful connections they have in their lives, but most importantly, of their connection to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May brings with it our New Family Open House, Book Fair, and Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 10th. Saturday, May 18th is our annual Picnic and Auction. You have the opportunity to enjoy artwork and music at our Fine Arts Festival on Wednesday, May 22nd. We would love to have you join us for any (or even all) of those events!

On May 31st, 2024, we will add another 19 names to the St. John's Lutheran alumni list. Congratulations to:

Ethan Acosta, Iris Bender, Genevieve Cortecero, Jaime Figueroa, Hayley Friend, Arielliz Gonzalez, Clara Ilie, Liam Leith, Nicholas Morrow, Riley Ordiales, Violeta Penate, Elyon Prempeh, Elijah Rayo, Joshua Rivera-Perez, Titus Russom, Stephany Scott, Ben Shero, Linnea Smallfield and Samantha Torres

We are so proud of each and every one of you and we pray for God to richly bless you as you begin the next chapter of high school!

Principal Runge

The Henry Knueppel School Endowment Fund: At the April meeting the Committee decided that 30% of the 2022-2023 net income should be distributed according to its bylaws. For the 2024-2025 school year:

The AGAPE Fund will receive \$18,046 | A total of \$13,046 will be divided among 13 teachers | \$9,395 will go to the Board of Christian Education for an updated reading series | \$3,000 will go to the 150th Anniversary Fund

Donations received in the 2022-2023 year were \$63,384 which was invested in the respective Thrivent Financial accounts along with a CD at WinTrust Bank

St. John's 150th Anniversary: In anticipation of our 150th year celebrations, we continue to beautify the grounds of St. John's with a comprehensive landscape project. With the great spring weather we've had, the parsonage lawn was sodded earlier than expected as Kentucky Blue Grass sod was available. We still anticipate that in mid-May flowers and shrubs will be planted.

This is a two-year project with additional seeding next year as well as new annual flowers and shrubs on the Laverne lawn and new annual flowers along the 4939 entrance walkway.

Another project still in consideration is replacing some old aggregate sidewalk at the top of the ramp, making it easier to use for handicap access and deliveries. A possible solution is paver bricks.





BOOK FAIR AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL



May 10th
3:30 - 6:00 PM



St. John's Gym
4939 W. Montrose Ave



NEW FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

Register to visit St. John's, see the classrooms,
meet the teachers and the principal!

MAY 10TH
9:00 – 11:00AM
OR
3:30 – 5:30PM



Sign-up today!



Annual St. John's Picnic

Saturday, May 18th
12:00 - 4:00 pm



Hosted by PTL: ptl@stjohnschicago.org



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/SERK M. LINSFORD

MAY Pray For Us Calendar

PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16-31

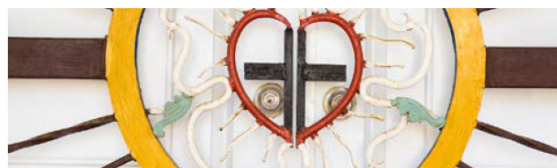
The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner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

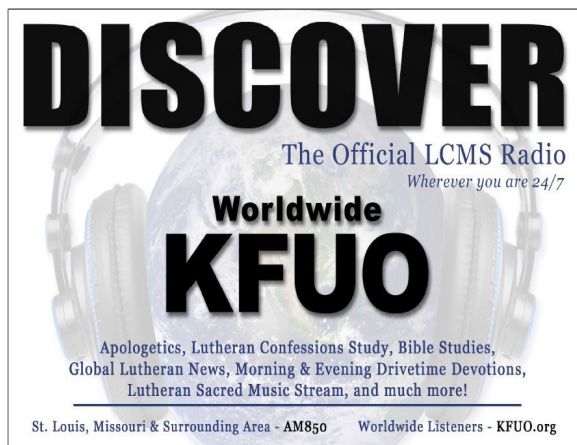
to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

- 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/SERK M. LINSFORD



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 3rd

Laurene Lohman

May 4th

Kaimi Wo

May 6th

Lucia Toledo & Mary Zanders

May 7th

Camilla Chavez

May 8th

James Van Tilburg

May 9th

Brooklyn Kincaid & Jake Turrentine

May 14th

Ronald Wichner

May 15th

Jordy Yerkes

May 18th

Ronald Byall

May 20th

Deborah Kraak, Karen McLane,
Gary Sobiek & Leonard Tornabene

May 21st

Heather Helfen & Judy Sobiek

May 23rd

Brian Dunn

May 26th

Austin Tully

May 27th

Wayne Wenzel

May 28th

David Osmon

May 30th

Leslee Johnson

May 31st

Joanne Peck

May 2024 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

