



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

## November 2020 Eagle Newsletter



### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## From the Pastor:

### Lectionaries

The concept of a lectionary, or a series of selected readings for worship (from the Latin *lectiones*, “selections”) comes from the Jewish synagogue. While the oldest example of a Jewish lectionary comes from the middle ages, there is a general consensus that the synagogues in Jesus’ day followed a three-year series of readings. When Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah in Luke 4, He did not randomly go to a part of the scroll, but was reading the appointed reading for the day.

When the Christian Church began, the synagogue was the site of many of the first Christian congregations. The series of readings from the Law and the Prophets was supplemented with the Good News of Jesus Christ, preached by the apostles and their appointees. During this time, the writings of the New Testament were still being produced, and when a church had access to one of these writings, they would read them along with the appointed readings.

Lectionaries in the early church were local. Some featured selected texts; others were *lectio continua* or continuous readings from the New Testament. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Christianity was decentralized for a time until the late 8<sup>th</sup> century and the crowning of Charlemagne as Holy Roman Emperor. To unite both kingdom and church, Charlemagne appointed Alcuin of York to produce a unified Bible and lectionary. To assemble his lectionary, Alcuin combined a Gospel lectionary originating with Gregory the Great and an Epistle lectionary from Gaul (France).

This became the lectionary that predominated Sunday worship during the middle ages. It was a one-year cycle, and certain themes became associated with the various Sundays. During the middle ages, it underwent several adjustments including the addition of Trinity Sunday in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This was the Sunday lectionary inherited by the Lutheran Reformers and was used, but with some additional modifications.

From the Reformation to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this lectionary was the mainstay for Sunday readings, with some exceptions. However, many preachers would not use these readings for preaching, instead choosing another text (or none at all!). This is where the practice of reading the whole text at the beginning of the sermon came from (some of our older members may remember sermons that began, “Our text for today comes from...”).

In the 1960s, following a renewal of liturgical studies, the Roman Catholic Church made an extensive revision of its lectionary, moving to a three-year cycle. This new lectionary took cues from the ancient church and had an eye to improving catholicity both among the churches today and in continuity with the church of all ages. One of the distinctive characteristics of this three-year schedule is the return of *lectio continua*, or continuous readings, which had been lost in the middle ages. *Lectio continua* puts an emphasis on the narrative context of the Scripture without ignoring the yearly narrative of the church’s year of grace.

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From the  
Pastor's  
Desk

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When The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod updated its hymnal in the years leading up to 2007, it also made its own revision to the three-year series. One issue that has always plagued church calendars is the moveable nature of Easter and the fixed nature of Christmas, such that seasons are sometimes longer or shorter. The LCMS three-year lectionary keeps all the assigned readings together, but moves the days on which they fall. Rather than associate with a sequential day of the calendar (e.g., the Fifth Sunday after Trinity), the LCMS calendar assigns a number to each set of readings (e.g., Proper 13) and the dates on which it falls can shift from year to year.

By switching to the three-year lectionary, we will also give a greater access to contemporary worship such as music planning and preaching notes, which are almost exclusively keyed to the three-year lectionary. It will also allow us to coordinate Sunday worship with our school chapel services, which are also keyed to the three-year series. It will be a great benefit to have our school worshiping along with our church, hearing the same words proclaimed during the week that are proclaimed on the Lord's Day.

Since this subject is quite involved, I have also included a series of resources for your further study at the end of this article.

In Christ,  
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard

Select Sources:

Reed, Luther D. *The Lutheran Liturgy*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1947.

Reumann, John. "History of Lectionaries: From the Synagogue at Nazareth to Post-Vatican II." *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible & Theology* 31, no. 2 (April 1, 1977): 116–30.

Stuckwisch, Rick. "One Year and Three Year Lectionary (LCMS Liturgy Institute 2014)>" <https://www.mixcloud.com/revd-rick-stuckwisch/one-year-and-three-year-lectionary-lcms-liturgy-institute-2014/>

Stuckwisch, Rick. "Why I Use the Three Year Lectionary." <https://www.gottesdienst.org/gottesblog/2009/06/why-i-use-three-year-lectionary.html>

**Ladies Book Club:** In November the Ladies Book Club will be reading *Emma* by Jane Austen. This is her fourth novel set in Highbury, England in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It centers on Emma Woodhouse, a precocious young woman and her romantic misadventures. We will be meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at 7PM via Zoom. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to be included in the meeting.



**From the Principal:** St. John's completed the first quarter of the school year on October 23, 2020. I am thankful that so far, all students and staff remain healthy. The health and safety protocols (daily temperature checks of all entering the building, wearing masks at all times, maintaining social distancing, and the heightened cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces) that were developed over the summer and implemented at the beginning of the school year are working thus far.

As I monitor the reports from the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health, it is easy to become anxious about what the future holds. As I talk with St. John's awesome teachers and see how exhausted they are, I worry about their health. As I become aware of the struggles related to Covid -19 some of our Chicagoland Lutheran Schools are experiencing I become troubled. As negativity fills the news I become distressed.

But even with all of the above, I am thankful. Maybe a better word would be blessed. I can be thankful and blessed that even in the midst of all that is going on around me, I can turn to the Bible and read words like the passage below from the Apostle Paul. An added blessing is to be able to share this passage and passages like it with St. John's faculty, staff, students and families.

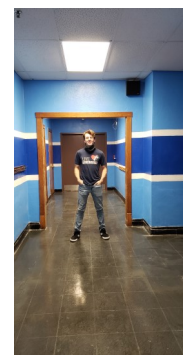
*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Philipians 4:6-7

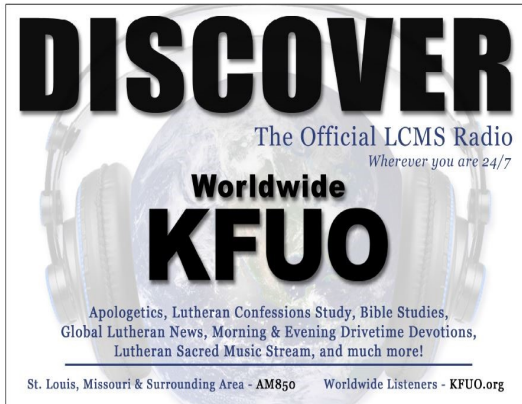
Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us. And while celebrations and family get togethers may be somewhat muted this year, my thankfulness for St. John's members can never be muted. I continue to thank God that you continue to support the mission and ministry of St. John's Lutheran School. May God continue to bless you and keep you safe and healthy.

Principal Green

**Girl Scout News:** Katherine applied for and was awarded the Eco-Advocacy Grant for her St. John's Lutheran Girl Scout Troop. Click this link to read more: <https://blog.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/2020/10/15/meet-our-eco-advocacy-grant-awardees>

**Boy Scout News:** Congratulations to St. John's alums and church members Kieran Pavlat ('17) and Jack Kraak ('17) for successfully completing their Boy Scout and Eagle Scout projects. Both Scouts choose to beautify St. John's for their projects. Kieran Pavlat repaired and repainted the hallway between Ellinger Hall and the youth room. Jack Kraak repaired and repainted the third floor walls and ceilings on the side closest to the Church. Each of these projects required a lot of man power and took many days and hours to complete. Kieran and Jack lead each of their projects as well as worked side-by-side with a crew to complete each project. They are really proud and happy with how their projects came out and hope that these areas will be beautify for St. John's for many years to come.





## Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

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[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.





NOVEMBER

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## THE LORD'S PRAYER — NOVEMBER 1-13

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) gives thanks for God's abundant grace we have received through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. In all things we give thanks for His love and mercy.

*Give thanks as you pray:*

- 1.** Give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Ask Him to empower Christians to follow their example of faith and good works.
- 2.** Give thanks for the saints on earth. Pray that His Church might continue in the true faith and proclaim the saving Good News.
- 3.** Thank God that He is our heavenly Father. Rejoice that God invites us to believe that He is our true Father and we are His true children.
- 4.** Thank God that His name is holy. Rejoice that all can trust in the Lord, for His Word is truth.

**5.** Thank God for His Kingdom. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would provide workers for the harvest field.

**6.** Thank God for His will. Pray that His will is done. Not ours.

**7.** Thank God that His will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Pray that God would keep us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

**8.** Thank God for daily bread. Pray for all those who are hungry today.

**9.** Thank God for forgiveness. Repent. Rejoice that your sins are forgiven by Christ.

**10.** Thank God for forgiveness. Pray for the strength to forgive those who have sinned against you.

**11.** Thank God that He leads us out of temptation. Ask God to lead you in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**12.** Thank God that He delivers us from evil. Rejoice that Jesus has won the victory over sin, death and the power of the devil.

**13.** Thank God that He hears our prayers for Jesus' sake. Rejoice that God promises to hear our prayers as a loving Father.



PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/GERK M. LINSFORD

## NOVEMBER Pray For Us Calendar

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE APOSTLES' CREED — NOVEMBER 14-30

This month, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) gives thanks for God's abundant grace we have received through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. In all things we give thanks for His love and mercy.

*Give thanks as you pray:*

- 14.** Thank God that He is the God who saves. Pray that all might fear, love and trust in Him alone.
- 15.** Thank God that His name is trustworthy. Call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.
- 16.** Thank God for Sabbath rest. Hold His Word sacred. Gladly hear and learn it.
- 17.** Thank God for your parents. Thank Him for all those in authority. Pray for the strength to obey.
- 18.** Thank God for your neighbor, that you might help in any need.
- 19.** Thank God for Christian marriage. May all learn to love as Christ loves His Church.
- 20.** Thank God for what He has provided for you. May all learn the secret of being content.

**21.** Thank God for the people in your life. May we speak well of them and explain everything in the kindest way.

**22.** Thank God for your home. Rejoice and be content in what He has provided for you.

**23.** Thank God for the people God has provided in your life.

**24.** Thank God for the Ten Commandments. Pray for strength to rejoice in His will and to walk in His ways to the glory of His holy name.

**25.** Thank God for creation.

**26.** Thank God for His Son Jesus Christ.

**27.** Thank God for the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Rejoice that Christ's death has purchased and won you from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.

**28.** Thank God for the promise of Christ's return. The Church prays, Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



**29.** Thank God for the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**30.** Thank God for St. Andrew, apostle. St. Andrew, Peter's brother, heard John's cry to "Behold the Lamb of God" and followed Jesus.

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.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/GERK M. LINSFORD



# November Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Carol Kentgen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shana Karnatz  
4<sup>th</sup> Ashley Banko  
5<sup>th</sup> Denise Sanders  
6<sup>th</sup> Marie Tornabene  
9<sup>th</sup> Dania Hernandez, Christina Speciale  
10<sup>th</sup> Karen Bronstein  
11<sup>th</sup> Abby Allen  
12<sup>th</sup> Philip Newcomb  
13<sup>th</sup> Karin Fiedler, Norman Hendricksen  
14<sup>th</sup> Stephanie Greenberg  
17<sup>th</sup> Alyssa Griggs  
19<sup>th</sup> Sue Costello, Sandra Reyes  
20<sup>th</sup> Sarah Byall, Jacquelyn Prats  
21<sup>st</sup> Renee Bohus, Debbie Mackie, Rick Paulsen  
23<sup>rd</sup> Eric Hernandez  
24<sup>th</sup> Mickey Maciejewski  
25<sup>th</sup> Christina Kehr  
26<sup>th</sup> Meghan Callaghan, Lisa Schuemer  
29<sup>th</sup> Katie Gray, Laura Kelly, Michael Marchak  
30<sup>th</sup> Laura Glasscock, Tiffany Pahnke, Thomas Scott, Stephen Whalen

## Stewardship Under the Cross, God's Word on How We Use His Gifts

by HR Curtis

### Why Should I Tithe?



We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we *do* make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24

Some of the teachings of the Bible are more difficult than others. For many the teachings about money, possessions and offerings are among the most difficult. But God's instructions are for our good, not for our harm. If we follow His instructions, we will be free and content. Jesus said in John 8:36 "If the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free." We also read in 1 Timothy 6:6 that "...godliness with contentment is great wealth." That is God's desire for His people: freedom, godliness, and contentment. That is also the desire of this church for its members and associates. That is why this Bible study is presented to you. Please pray for the Lord to make you open to His message, then go through the study. If you live in a family setting, it would probably be good to do the study together.

#### 1. To whom does my money belong?

'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,' says the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:8

King David said to God, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us!" 1 Chr. 29:14

*So everything I have really belongs to God. I am merely His manager of those things.*

#### 2. What 5 requirements does God make on every Christian regarding money offerings?

a. 2 Corinthians 9:7 "You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives *cheerfully*."

*So the Lord wants me to make my money offerings willingly.*

b. Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the *first* part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine."

*The Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him first. He is not pleased when I give Him leftovers.*

c. 1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of *every week*, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once."

*This tells me that the Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him regularly, that is, whenever I have income, whether I am able to go to church that week or not. (continued on next page)*

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d. 1 Corinthians 16:2 “On every Lord’s Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money *in relation to what you have earned* and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.”

Deut. 16:17 “Each of you must bring a gift *in proportion* to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”

Luke 12:48 “Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.”

The Lord tells me that it is not the amount itself that is important. What is important is that I make my money offerings proportionately. In other words, I should give a generous percentage of the income the Lord enables me to earn through my work and investments.

e. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 “Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.”

Luke 7:47 Jesus said, “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

So my money offerings to the Lord should also be made generously.

Here’s the list of Biblical principles when it comes to making money offerings:

1. **Willingly**
2. **First**
3. **Regularly (whenever I have income)**
4. **Proportionately (percentage)**
5. **Generously (Faithful Christian giving starts at a tithe)**

**3. What if I serve the Lord faithfully, even exceptionally, in other areas? Does that mean I don’t need to follow these directions about money offerings?**

2 Corinthians 8:7 “Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.”

Matthew 23:23 Jesus once compared offerings with “the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.” And he said, “You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.”

So no matter how well or faithfully I may serve in some areas, the Lord expects me to follow His directions regarding money offerings, also, and even to excel in this area.

**4. What exactly is “tithing” and what does God say about it?** (continued on next page)

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“To tithe” literally means “to give 10%.” The command about tithing was part of the Old Testament laws for the nation of Israel. So what God said in the Law is no longer a requirement, although the principle remains. (The principle in the Bible is that offerings begin at 10%.) But the Lord’s promises never change. And consider this promise about tithing:

Mal. 3:10-11 “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

#### **5. Is it true that some people have tried tithing and it didn’t work for them?**

If that’s true, then God’s Word is not true. We should remember that the Bible does not say that tithing can be done without sacrifice. But God does say that the blessings will far outweigh any hardship if the tithing is done consistently and from the heart.

#### **6. Is getting a blessing from God my motivation for tithing?**

No, the motivation is His amazing love for me. Consider these three Scriptures:

Galatians 2:20 “I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 “You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.”

2 Corinthians 5:15 “He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.”

#### **7. Please prayerfully consider the following statements. If you live in a family setting, please talk and pray about them together.**

- The Lord has blessed us with all we need for this body and life.
- Have we been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart?
- If so, what other needs in our church and community can use our attention?
- If not – what steps can we take to move in a faithful direction?

