



St John's
Lutheran Church
& School

November 2021 Eagle Newsletter



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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

From the Pastor: Worship Schedule

The fall voters' meeting authorized the church council to decide on a worship schedule at St. John's moving into the future. This presents both challenges and opportunities. I understand this debate has been going on since before my time at St. John's. Some people see it as a practical matter. Others are concerned over what it might imply for the future of St. John's. Let me suggest that's it's both.

I won't lie or paper over the reality of the world around us. I read an article just this morning in the *Wall Street Journal* that reports that church attendance has dropped from 70% in 1999 to 47% today. That's decrease of almost one third! The article indicates that younger people are not aligned with the church's stance on several hot-button political topics like gender issues, immigration, and gun control. What they didn't mention in the article is how churches that do align with these issues seem to be suffering just as badly or even worse. The decline is across the board.

We are not surrounded by anonymous Christians (to borrow a term from the Roman Catholic Karl Rahner) who simply need to be reminded that they always have been Christians. We're surrounded by Nones. Recent polls show between a quarter and a third of people in America have no religious affiliation or identification at all—coincidentally, about the same as the decrease in church attendance. The belief system that undergirds the Nones is nihilism. Nihilism is the belief that there is no foundation for believing anything. The only thing worth believing is whatever seems to be the most powerful.

What does this have to do with a worship schedule? I propose that the solution to our problem is not to offer more worship. Or even to offer a different kind of worship. Worship is for the baptized, for those who have been built upon the foundations of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus as the cornerstone. The people who aren't worshipping don't need an opportunity to worship; they need a foundation.

I am convinced that the way to do this is through the catechumenate. The catechumenate is the church's way of making disciples by baptizing and teaching. It's not the duty of the pastor alone, or an evangelism committee, or some other segment of the congregation. It's the whole congregation.

In our decision on the worship schedule going into the future, I want to join worship to catechumenate. What exactly this looks like will take some time and some reorientation of our vision of what it means to be a member of the church. More to come...

In Christ
Under the Cross
Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

From the Principal: St. John's students take the Measure of Academic Progress Test (MAP) three times per year. The MAP test is an essential tool for assessing student learning, guiding instruction and evaluating St. John's academic program. The Fall MAP Test results are in the chart below. The scores in the chart are composite percentile rankings of all of St. John's students.

Math	Reading	Language Usage	Science
60 th Percentile	62 nd Percentile	64 th Percentile	63 rd Percentile

The scores indicate how well St. John's students are doing in comparison to all the students who take the MAP test. For example, a test score that is greater than 60% of the scores of people taking the test is said to be at the 60th percentile. My goal is for St. John's to reach the 70th percentile. We will reach this goal by continuing to update curricular materials and continuing to improve instructional techniques.

Proposed mission and vision statements for St. John's Lutheran School are included again. As shared in my article from last month, this is part of CLEF's Chicagoland Principal 360 initiative which Michelle Runge and I are participating in. Our current learning module is focusing on marketing, recruitment and retention.

Vision Statement - St. John's Lutheran School will be known for equipping learners from diverse backgrounds to become empathetic, loving citizens who positively impact their community and the world by living out the Gospel of Jesus through a life of service.

Mission Statement - St. John's Lutheran School exists to empower all students through a Christ-centered excellent academic program and to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ showing love to all through a life of service.

These statements and core values will be finalized after input is gathered from St. John's stakeholders. Please direct any comments on these statements to me.

I invite you to participate in two school fundraisers. November 9th is the Chipotle Fundraiser located at 4957 W Irving Park beginning at 4PM. November 30th is the Culver's Fundraiser located at 4939 W Irving Park beginning at 5PM. A percentage of the sales from both these events will be given to St. John's.

As always, thank you for your continued support of St. John's Lutheran School!

Principal Green

Ladies Book Club: In November the Ladies Book Club will be reading The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. This classic was probably read by all in high school, but as an adult we often look at things with a different perspective. In anticipation of reading this book again, a couple of us were fortunate to participate in a Hemingway Walking Tour of Oak Park in September given by Nancy Sindelar. Sindelar authored Influencing Hemingway, a book which addresses the "people and places that shaped his life and work." She is currently working on another book which will address his later years.

We will also be reading Lulu in Hollywood by Louise Brooks. It is a collection of seven autobiographical essays from a Hollywood legend.

The Book Club is still meeting via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to be included.



TRIVIA NIGHT
FUNDRAISER
CLASS of 2022

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY
CREATE YOUR OWN TEAM

FACE MASK REQUIRED

B.Y.O.B.
B.Y.O.F.

SPACE IS LIMITED

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021
DOORS OPEN AT **6:30 PM**
FIRST ROUND PROMPTLY STARTS AT **7:00PM**
REGISTER YOUR TABLE BY FRIDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2021
MAX OF 8 PERSONS PER TABLE
NO BABYSITTING WILL BE PROVIDED

\$20 PER PERSON

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
4939 W. MONTROSE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60641

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES ALL TRIVIA ROUNDS AND 2 GAMES OF HEADS & TAILS

For everyone's safety, the following COVID-19 restrictions will be followed:

- All tables will have a maximum of 8 persons per table
- No food will be provided
 - ✓ Hungry? - Bring your own food
 - ✓ Thirsty? - Bring your own drinks
- Face Masks must be worn at all times unless eating or drinking

TRIVIA NIGHT 2022 SIGN-UP

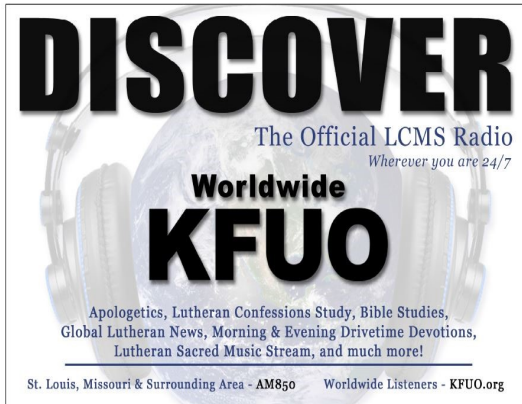
(All players must be over 21 to play)

- Register Your Table by Friday, October 29, 2021

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

NUMBER OF PLAYERS _____ X \$20.00/PERSON = _____

- RETURN this Sign-Up with full payment to the School Office marked "TRIVIA" by Friday, October 29, 2021
 - ✓ Make check(s) payable to:
St. John's Lutheran School - Class of 2022
- Any questions? Email Mrs. Michelle Runge @ mrunge@stjohnschicago.org



Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at kfuo.org and follow us at

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 or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/GERK M. LINSFORD



November 1st.. Carol Kentgen
 November 2nd.. Shana Karnatz
 November 4th.. Ashley Banko
 November 5th.. Denise Sanders
 November 6th.. Marie Tornabene
 November 9th.. Christina Speciale
 November 10th.. Karen Bronstein
 November 11th.. Abigail Allen
 November 12th.. Philip Newcomb
 November 14th.. Stephanie Greenberg
 November 17th.. Alyssa Griggs
 November 19th.. Susan Costello
 November 20th.. Sarah Byall, Jacquelyn Prats
 November 21st.. Renee Bohus, Debra Mackie, Fredrick Paulsen
 November 23rd.. Eric Hernandez
 November 24th.. Michaeline Maciejewski
 November 26th.. Lisa Schuemer
 November 29th.. Katie Gray, Laura Kelly, Michael Marchak
 November 30th.. Laura Glasscock, Tiffany Pahnke, Thomas Scott

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?

