



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

## November 2023 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: Who Wants To Be the Spleen of Jesus?

In a few weeks, many of you will be preparing the Thanksgiving turkey. Unfortunately, many of you will yank out the bag of giblets and send them directly to the trash can. Don't do it! They make great gravy or flavorful bits for dressing! Although, I have a feeling that if you're not already using the offal from your turkey, you probably aren't going to take my advice for this year.

Bodies are a wondrous thing, but not all the bits are as pleasant as the others. Some do downright dirty work, processing what we eat, filtering the blood, passing the waste that results from the millions upon millions of cycles of cellular respiration that happen every minute.

That's why liver, for instance, has such a strong and distinct flavor that not everyone digs. But if you (or any other complex creature) did not have a liver, you would die. Almost immediately. Kidneys and pancreases and spleens are all necessary to keep the more pleasant bits operating. Even so-called vestigial organs like the appendix or gall bladder play their role.

We are the body of Christ by virtue of the birth baptism gives and by feasting on the body and blood of Christ weekly in His Supper. St. Paul writes to the Romans, **For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another (Rom. 12:4–5).** We are all members of the body, but we are not all the same.

Most of the talk about the body of Christ comes down to hands and feet—being the hands and feet of Jesus. Those parts are necessary parts of the body (however, I always warn people that those are the parts that get nails driven through them). But who wants to be the spleen of Jesus? Who wants to be His appendix?

In the body of Christ, no member is less significant than another. In the body of Christ, no bits should be thrown away into the trash. Every single member has his or her own function. Sometimes hidden. Sometimes unpleasant. But all necessary. Even vestigial members of the body.

So give the giblets a try. But if not, say a prayer of thanksgiving for the least and lowliest members of the body this Thanksgiving.

Next time: Body ethics

**2024 Thanksgiving Worship:** There will be a Thanksgiving Vespers with Responsive Prayer on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM led by the elders of St. John's. For those who are unable to attend in person, there will be a special Thanksgiving prayer service video posted on Wednesday evening, which you can use for home devotions at any time during the Thanksgiving holiday.

In Christ,  
under the Cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



**Ladies Book Club:** In November The Ladies Book Club will be reading A Death in Door County by Annelise Ryan. This quirky murder mystery set in an area many of us have visited, has a twist. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.



**From the Trustees:** Thank you to Ron and John who have been repairing church bell, which should be complete by 2024.

**From the Music Department:** It's that time of year to get Chancel Bell Choir together for Advent and Christmas music. We need two or three additional members to compliment our group for a full ensemble. We will be scheduling some performances as well as rehearsals. Depending on the group, rehearsals may be on Thursday evenings or Sunday mornings.

We plan on playing a Sunday or two in Advent and also on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, so there may be three services we could choose to play for. Christmas Eve morning is the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve later in the day. Please call, text or email if you would join us for this holiday season.

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**From the Principal:** As we enter November, I cannot help but pause and give God thanks for the many blessings that we have received here at St. John's.

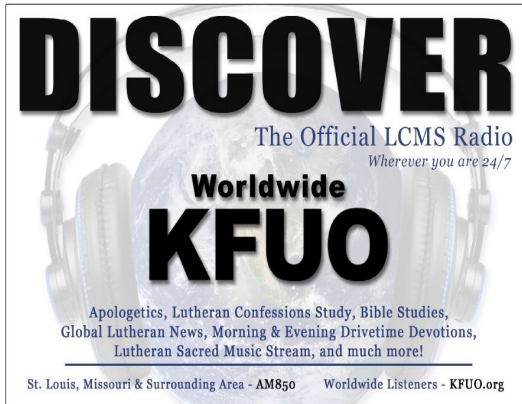
We are beyond thankful for our wonderful teachers who work hard each and every day to share the good news of our Savior. We are especially thankful for **Ms. Pamela Sawusch** who accepted the position of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade homeroom teacher/HSP math teacher after Ms. Vincente resigned. We see the goodness of God in each of our 163 students that we have the opportunity to share His love with each and every day. We are blessed with an amazing staff to support our ministry.

We are grateful for CLEF (Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation) and the support they provide for St. John's. They bless us with tuition assistance and salary support, as well as providing professional development for our faculty. We give thanks for our dedicated PTL and all of our parent volunteers who make our fundraising initiatives and events memorable for our students.

We will begin our November with Parent Teacher Conferences on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is an opportune time for our teachers and parents to collaborate on helping each student reach their academic and spiritual goals. We invite you to join us for a Culvers Give Back Night on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> (4939 West Irving Park) from 5:00-8:00PM. We pray that each of you have a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. We are thankful for the love, prayers and support you all give to our St. John's school family.

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! - Psalm 107:1**

Mrs. Runge



## 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.







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

November 1st

Carol Kentgen

November 4th

Ashley Banko

November 5th

Denise Sanders

November 6th

Marie Tornabene

November 7th

Tyler Schoessow

November 8th

Kade Benedict

November 9th

Christina Speciale

November 10th

Robin Brey

November 11th

Abby Allen

November 14th

Stephanie Greenberg

November 17th

Henry Adamczyk

November 19th

Sandra Reyes

November 21st

Samuel Avner, Renee Bohus &

Debbie Mackie

November 23rd

Eric Hernandez

November 24th

Mickey Maciejewski

November 26th

Lisa Schuemer

November 29th

Katie Gray

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?

