



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

October 2020 Eagle Newsletter



Galatians 6:9 ESV

⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

From the Pastor: Adjustments to Our Healthy Practices at St. John's

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. (Psalm 4:5)

Dear friends in Christ,

The past 9 months have been a rollercoaster ride, to be sure. As we have discovered more about the novel coronavirus (and about ourselves!), we are able to adjust our practices with more information and with care and concern for our neighbors. After observing trends in our attendance since reopening and in conjunction with new research regarding some practices common to worship, I have decided the time is right to adjust our practices in order to best serve our congregation the gifts of God while also maintaining the best practices to protect against the transmission of disease.

What is not changing

- Face coverings will still be the norm inside the building; please continue to wear them unless you are seated with only your family members and at a distance farther than 6 feet from others
- Members are encouraged to wash their hands frequently and utilize hand sanitizer as they enter the church building
- Members who are ill, experiencing any of the known symptoms of Covid-19, and especially those with an elevated temperature must stay home and are urged to seek the care of a physician
- Socializing is encouraged outdoors; congregating in the building is discouraged
- Worship will continue to be live-streamed Sundays at 11AM on YouTube and available for viewing thereafter
- Bible study and other non-worship activities remain suspended and/or offered remotely

What is changing

- The organ will accompany worship at all services (the piano has been more convenient for recording purposes and for smaller groups at worship)
- The 8AM service will remain an "at-risk" service with minimized singing; 11AM and 6PM will offer a fully sung liturgy according to the settings in *Lutheran Service Book**
- I will offer a brief service of Holy Communion (~15 minutes) on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30PM or 7PM for those who wish to continue to minimize their exposure to large groups. The service will be limited to ten attendees, who must register at least 24 hours in advance at stjohnschicago.org/communion
- Hymnals and pew Bibles will be available; the entire service will continue to be printed in a disposable worship folder
- Offerings will be presented at the altar, but will still be collected as you enter church; touchless e-giving is encouraged

At-risk service (8AM)

- Liturgy will be mostly spoken
- Singing will be conducted by either the pastor or a cantor
- Members are invited to sing along at a low volume and are encouraged to wear their face coverings while singing*
- Communion will continue to be distributed continuously while maintaining social distance

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*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

(continued from previous page)

Expanded services (11AM, 6PM)

- Singing is expanded with additional hymns and liturgy*
- Attendees are asked to maintain social distance while seated
- Communion will be distributed at the altar while maintaining social distance between family groups

*A preliminary study on singing and viral transmission indicates that singing in a worship setting is best done by a cantor or song leader because it maximizes social distance. Congregants who sing can also reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to others by wearing a face covering. A more recent study indicates that singing produces no significant increased risk of spread at the same volume (though this study has not been peer reviewed). Consequently, our at-risk service will focus on songs led by a soloist. Members at all services are encouraged to sing at a volume at or below normal speech and to wear a face covering during these times.

*“Look at the birds of the air;
they do not sow or reap or store
away in barns, and yet your
heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much more
valuable than they?”*



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7330568/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53853961#:~:text=Singing%20does%20not%20produce%20substantially,yet%20to%20be%20peer%20reviewed.>

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we trust You for protection and guidance as we offer right sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise to You. You have sanctified not only our hearts but also our minds to make responsible decisions and we pray that our precautions will protect our neighbors, especially those who are most vulnerable. Continue to guard us against disease and plague, that we may continue to sing Your praises. For the sake of Your Son Jesus and in His name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard

Reformation Fall Fest: When: Saturday, October 31st from 4-6PM | Where: St. John's back parking lot
What: Socially distant fellowship, Reformation hymn sing, firepits, s'mores, and other treats
Who: Our church, school, and neighborhood communities





REPAIR & PREPARE

The past several months have brought a number of unexpected challenges to St. John's. In the middle of the pandemic, we were met with two expensive and necessary repairs to keep our building safe and functional for the members of our community. Our bell tower needed to be shored up to prevent falling concrete and our boiler required replacement before the cold winter months came upon us.

In addition to these repairs, we also need to prepare ourselves for the ongoing challenges of Covid-19. In order to continue to provide excellent spiritual and educational services to our community, we must equip ourselves with personal protective equipment (PPE) and upgrade our technology to improve our remote broadcasting abilities so that we can bring God's Word to bear on these trying times.

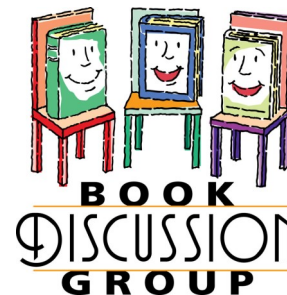
We are beginning a special appeal this month for dedicated contributions to help us through our challenges so that we may emerge stronger on the other end. Donations to these special projects are being collected through GoFundMe Charity. You will see links to this collection in this digital newsletters as well as on our various digital media outlets and print announcements at church.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to meet these needs. We have already begun to receive some contributions, and a set of generous donors are matching the first \$10,000 raised. We continue to pray that the Lord would provide generous hearts to help us support and extend His church here in Northwest Chicago.

God bless your generosity.
Pastor Ehrhard

Please click here to donate: <https://charity.gofundme.com/stjohnschicagolcms>

Ladies Book Club: In October the Ladies Book Club will be The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. It is a true story about a woman who was a poor Southern tobacco farmer. Her cells were taken without her knowledge and they became one of the most important tools in medicine. These first "immortal" human cells grown in culture are still alive today, even though Henrietta has been gone for more than 60 years. This book deals with important medical and bioethical issues.



The Ladies Book Club is meeting remotely via Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Pam Karnatz if you would like to be included.

Henry Knueppel School Endowment Fund: The annual mailing of the HK School Endowment is currently being made ready for mailing. This mailing goes out to at least 1,000 alumni, church members, and friends. Last year the Endowment paid out over \$51,000 to the school areas stipulated by the Endowment Bylaws: 30% to the student scholarship (AGAPE) fund; 30% to the Called, full-time teachers on staff; 15% to education programs; and, 25% (Miscellaneous) went to help pay the delinquent health care program for the staff. The Endowment has been blessed by many contributors who believe in Christian Education. The HK Endowment Committee would like to encourage more of our church members to help support this Endowment that benefits St. John's Lutheran Church's mission -- our school. Through our school and its teachers, children and their families are made aware of their salvation and eternal life. As you realize by the above statements, endowments can be of great help -- and you can see that the HK School Endowment is a wonderful blessing to our church. Please help it continue by being a blessing yourself to it.

From the Principal: St. John's Lutheran School has successfully and safely finished five weeks of school. So far the health, safety, and cleaning protocols have allowed faculty, students and staff to return to school without incident. Additionally, St. John's teachers are doing their best to provide distance learning opportunities for the families that have requested that option. There is a total of 132 students currently enrolled.

The school composite Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) Percentile Scores for Fall of 2020 are listed below. This is the third consecutive year of growth. This is especially impressive as we were not able to take the MAP Tests last spring. The growth to date has been achieved because of the efforts of St. John's incredible teachers and the continual updating of curriculum and technology. St. John's initial goal is to achieve school composite scores in the 70th percentile.

Math	Reading	Language Usage	Science
56 th Percentile	61 st Percentile	65 th Percentile	65 th Percentile

The World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser has approximately one week to go. St. John's families have sold the initial 205 cases of candy. We ordered another 25 cases to meet the demand. The profit from this fundraiser will be around \$6,000 and has been designated for school improvement initiatives. Many thanks to Jennie Stinar for her leadership on this fundraiser.

As always, I am thankful for your support of St. John's Lutheran School. We have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with 132 students and their families five days a week.

- Principal Green



Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUEO

Find and Listen at kfueo.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUEOradio.

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 KFUEO 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.





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

OCTOBER

Pray For Us Calendar

HOLY BAPTISM — OCTOBER 1-15

Water and Word wash us into Christ's death and resurrection. "Baptism ... now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21). We daily remember our Baptism through repentance and forgiveness in the cross of Christ. Through our Baptism, we are brought into the Church, the Body of Christ. As we pray, we rejoice in God's gift of Baptism and continue to rejoice in the gifts of forgiveness, the Holy Spirit and eternal life granted to us in Word and Sacrament.

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

- 1.** Thank God for His gifts of Word and Sacrament, that through these means God freely gives His grace to sinners by faith.
- 2.** Thank God for the gift of Baptism, that His Word works through the water to join us to Christ's death and resurrection.
- 3.** Thank God for the gift of Baptism, that His Word combines with the water to deliver forgiveness and eternal life.

4. Rejoice that the Holy Spirit gives faith and sustains us in the faith.

5. Thank God for the gift of Baptism for adults, that those who are instructed in the faith and who were not baptized as children may receive the gift of forgiveness and life in the waters of Baptism.

6. for parents, that they might faithfully raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them His Word and bringing them to the Sacrament.

7. for sponsors, that they might faithfully work with parents to teach the faith to the baptized.

8. for all the baptized, that in daily repentance all might cling to God's promises of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ.

9. for all the baptized, that they might daily cling to their Baptism and hope in Christ alone.

10. for all the baptized, that the Spirit would keep the Church strong in persecution.

11. for all the baptized, that they witness to all about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

12. for all who are not baptized, that the Spirit would draw them to Christ in faith.

13. Thank God for the Baptism of Jesus, that He took on our sins to suffer in our stead.

14. Thank God for calling you to be His adopted child and heir of eternal life.

15. That Christ would return quickly, that the Church might dwell with Him in righteousness, holiness and blessedness.



PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LUNSFORD

OCTOBER Pray For Us Calendar

THE LORD'S SUPPER — OCTOBER 16-31

Bread and wine, body and blood feed us with the food that endures to eternal life. Christ gives His body and blood to His body the Church. Those who have faith in the words, "given and shed for you" receive what those words promise, the forgiveness of sins.

Remember God's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar as you pray:

16. Thank God for the Sacrament of the Altar, that it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine.

17. Rejoice that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given.

18. That God would grant us faith in His Word, that we worthily receive the Sacrament and live in repentance.

19. Thank God for daily bread, even the bread of life that we receive in the Sacrament.

20. for preparation before receiving the Sacrament, that all might receive it trusting in the Words of Christ.

21. Thank God for the Church and the Office of the Holy Ministry.

22. for the unity of the Church, that schisms might cease, and all might be united in the true faith.

23. that we, who are many, may see ourselves as the one Body of Christ.

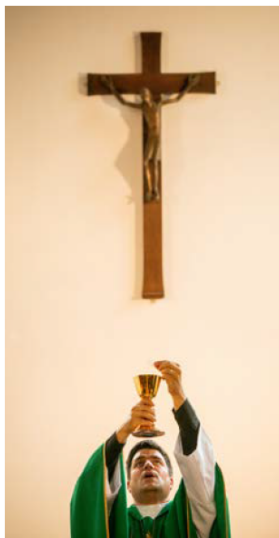
24. for the Church, that she remains faithful to the truth of God's Word.

25. for the LCMS, that we might believe, teach and confess all things according to God's will.

26. with thanksgiving that God continues to strengthen us through His Word and Sacraments.

27. for those who do not belong to the Church, that God would call all to faith.

28. for the sustenance of the Sacrament of the Altar, that God would grant faith unto eternal life.



29. that after receiving Communion, all would amend their sinful lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

30. that God would keep all Christians from being led



astray by false teachings, and instead bring them to a deeper knowledge of Him.

31. for the endurance of faith until Christ returns.

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/ERIK M. LUNSFORD



- 1st - Caitlin Thorbahn
- 2nd - Erin Laskowski
- 3rd - Linda Parker, Linda Spike
- 4th - Tim Wier
- 5th - Karen Comber
- 6th - Carmen Van Tilburg, Mark Zanders
- 9th - Sandy Pavlat, Jon Rutti, Beverly Tentler, Amber Wilczak
- 11th - Jennifer Banks, Peter Puenner
- 13th - Linda Thorson
- 15th - Lizabeth O'Malley
- 18th - Virginia Dick, Carl Giess, Rey Rollon
- 19th - Debbie Wheeler
- 20th - Kristin Warnock
- 22nd - Austin Bebart
- 24th - Rick Lucas, Carolyn Pfister
- 26th - Kathryn Dillon, Amy Fogarty, Susan Gronert-Jahnke
- 27th - John Marchak
- 29th - Jonathan Eggert, Ryan O'Hara, Donna Schuth

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

by HR Curtis

Do I have to Tithe?

That is an interesting question: do we have to tithe under the New Testament? After all, tithing, that is, giving 10% of our income to God's work in the Church, is a regulation of the Old Testament. We live under Christ in the New Testament so does this apply to us today?

We might approach our answer to this question by asking whether or not we have to keep the Third Commandment – which reads in full from **Exodus 20:8-11**:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

So do we have to keep this commandment? Should we cease from all labor on Saturday as the people of the Old Testament did? Of course not! That was one of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ – and since Christ has fulfilled the Sabbath rest by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday, we are free from the Old Testament Sabbath regulations. Thus St. Paul writes:

"Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ" (Col. 2:16-17).

And yet, there the Third Commandment stands in our Small Catechism: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! What's going on here? Well, look at Luther's explanation of the third commandment:

"What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it."

So the form of the commandment, the letter of the law, has passed away as a shadow: but the spirit still remains. We are to honor God by our worship, by gladly receiving His Word and Sacraments in His Church.

So it is with tithing. The New Testament nowhere lists the precise regulations about giving this tithe and that tithe to the Levites and the Temple and so on. Those precise regulations were to point us to Christ: who represents the fullness of humanity though He is one Man, just as the tithe represented the fullness of the income of the people of Israel though it was only 10% thereof. We are in no way bound to these precise legal regulations of Old Testament Israel.

And yet, just as the fulfilling of the Sabbath Day doesn't mean that going to the Lord's House for worship once a week is obsolete – so also the New Testament does not make faithful financial stewardship obsolete. Rather, the New Testament is full of admonitions on this point:

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper." (1 Cor. 16:2)

"But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Cor. 8:7)

"The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

So just as the Old Testament's once a week worship became the benchmark for New Testament worship, so also the Old Testament's tithe becomes the benchmark for New Testament stewardship. Not in the way of inflexible, minute regulations – but in the way of pattern and fulfillment. If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally ("as each one may prosper"), weekly ("on the first day"), and "generously" – then surely the Old Testament tithe is the floor level of Christian giving, not the ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations.

