



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

October 2021 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:

Reading Scripture: Ephesians 3

Four-dimensional love. That's the love that Christ has for us. His love exceeds all measurement. Christ's love has breadth and length, height and depth. The love of Christ defies knowledge, but is made known by the Spirit of God, who causes Christ to dwell in our hearts.

And this love overflows in doxology. "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Eph 3:20–21).

A prayer: Father in heaven, by whom all fatherhood is named, we bow the knee before You. Thank you for welcoming us into Your family by adoption and for our inheritance of all of heaven's treasures. We confess that we do not deserve to be called friends, much less Your sons and daughters, though You have given us boldness and access through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Do not let us lose heart, though we suffer many trials and setbacks in this world of sin. Let Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, let us be rooted and grounded in love, and cause us to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

I am planning to have my first meeting in October with a small group from St. John's to discuss how to begin crafting a statement of vision. After our initial meeting, I hope that our task force will reach out to other members of our congregation to get their input on where we should be focusing our sights for the future.

You may have noticed couple of guests in worship the past few weeks. We have two deaconess field workers assigned to our congregation from Concordia University Chicago. Our field workers will be observing life in a congregation and will be participating in some activities, including visitations, Sunday School/catechism, and mission/outreach. Make sure to greet Katie and Anna.

I am requesting that the trustees invest in repairing or replacing lighting in the sanctuary.

Because of the ongoing uncertainties of Covid restrictions, I have decided to delay any outreach efforts related to the catechumenate until 2022. When we begin, I want to make this a central focus of our life together.

On Wednesday, October 20th, we will have a Reformation Hymn Sing at St. John's as part of our Faith & Fellowship effort. This will be an outdoor event with fire pits and s'mores, and a little background on how the Reformation spread through song. Be alert for our November event, which is a variety show for church and school.

In Christ,

under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

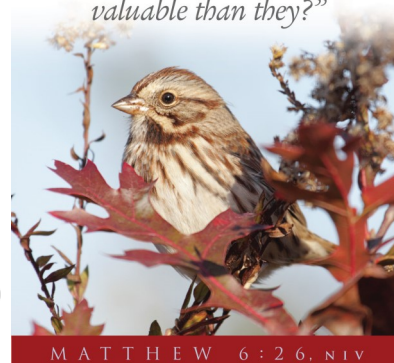
Program Schedule: At the Voter's Meeting on Sunday, September 26th, the assembly unanimously authorized the Church Council, with input from other Boards and members, to implement a new program schedule at a time of their choosing.

The program schedule includes Divine Services, Bible Class, and Coffee Hour.

If you would like to provide feedback on this matter, please contact neubauer.adam@gmail.com or any other member of Church Council.

If we are able to grow attendance in the future, we could expand our program offerings. To this end, we are seeking someone to lead Witness and Outreach (+ Inreach!). Please contact neubauer.adam@gmail.com to volunteer. Your resources include <https://resources.lcms.org/tag/witness-and-outreach-ministry/> in addition to financial assistance for materials and/or events.

*"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?"*



Reformation Hymn Sing: The families of St. John's Lutheran Church and School are invited to a Reformation Hymn Sing on Wednesday, October 20th at 6PM. Pastor will provide a devotion and Mrs. Jurica will lead us in singing some old favorites (as well as some new favorites, too!) After singing, we will enjoy a firepit, s'mores, and Halloween Candy.

This event will take place outside. In the event of bad weather, the group will move to a location in the building.

This event is part of our Faith and Family Night series.

Bell Choir: The Chancel Bell Choir will be playing for Reformation Day (October 31st) worship services. We plan to rehearse on Sunday October 10th and Sunday October 24th from 9:30AM - 10:30AM. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know. Call me or email Mark Eggert at meggert@stjohnschicago.org

We are planning on playing for the last Sunday of the Church year and the Christmas Season as well with limited rehearsals.

St. John's Boy Scout Troop 997: The Scouts are selling beautiful evergreen wreaths, sprays, centerpieces, live trees, and garlands for Christmas again this year. You can either call or e-mail Sandy Pavlat if you are interested in purchasing: 773-208-4041 or pavlats@yahoo.com

Products are available to be shipped across the country as well. Delivery is the week of Thanksgiving and orders are due by October 29th 2021.



Ladies Book Club: In October the Ladies Book Club will be reading Ordinary Grace by William Ken Kruger. In this novel Frank Drum, the son of a minister, tells the story of the summer of his thirteenth year. It was a grim summer in which death visited and took many forms. Frank finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal. We will be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, October 26th at 7:30PM. If you would like to join us please contact Betty Carey.



From the Principal: We have reached the mid-term of the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. Almost everyone has settled into the school routine. After taking the year off due to the pandemic, St. John's cross-country team and volleyball teams are competing once again. The school handbell choir is rehearsing every week. In-person chapel for the entire student body has resumed. While the activities listed above have returned, they are being conducted following the Covid-19 protocols put in place by government and health officials.

Chicago Principal 360 is a new initiative being sponsored by the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation. This program is to assist principals in developing a 3–5 year strategic plan for their school that is based on the school's core values, vision and mission statements. Michelle Runge and I are participating in this program on behalf of St. John's. The initial mission and vision statements are written below.

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.

As shared with you last spring, St. John's was on track to end the 2020-2021 school year with zero uncollected tuition. I am happy to announce that this has become reality. For the first time in many years all tuition and fees have been collected. Lastly, I have applied for the Child-care Restoration Grant. We have qualified for the grant and should be receiving a check in the next few weeks of at least \$20,000.

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

- Principal Green

Henry Knueppel School Endowment Fund: The annual mailing for the Henry Knueppel School Endowment was mailed in September to about 950 people which include members, alumni, and friends. The appeal letter has generated over the past twenty years approximately twenty thousand dollars a year.

A payout is made every year. This payout is used to aid families needing help with tuition, provides a financial consideration acknowledging the dedication of our full-time teachers, and lends financial assistance for academic improvements within our school.

Over these twenty years, the fund has received donations from estates as well as individuals. These are people who have realized the importance and value of a Christian education in one's young life, many themselves having experienced such training. A number of alumni have written about some of their grade school experiences and the fond memories of activities experienced while attending. Having gone to many St. John's and Luther North High School reunions, we're impressed how successful so many of them have become in their adult life.

It is with a prayer in our hearts that there will always be a school endowment that helps children obtain a God-given basis to life and helps to encourage faithful, dedicated teachers to teach and lead them. Please consider giving a donation to this school endowment of any size, large or small, with your prayer that it will help lead a child and his family to know his Savior. Just send it to:

St. John's Lutheran Church
4939 W. Montrose, Chicago, Illinois 60641

Please indicate it is for the school endowment fund.

Thank you,
Henry and Judy Knueppel



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.





OCTOBER

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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.

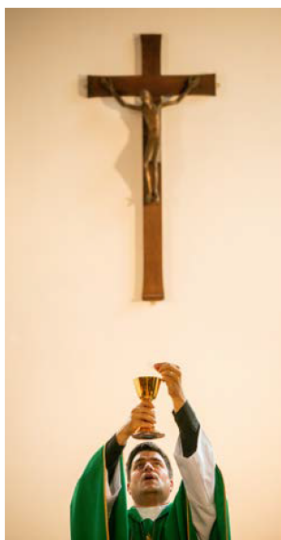
24. for the Church, that she remains faithful to the truth of God's Word.

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



October 2nd -- Erin Laskowski

October 3rd -- Linda Parker, Linda Spike

October 4th -- Kevin Przybylski, Tim Wier

October 5th -- Karen Comber

October 6th -- Carmen Van Tilburg, Mark Zanders

October 9th -- Sandy Pavlat, Jon Rutti, Beverly Tentler,
Amber Wilczak

October 11th -- Jennifer Banks, Peter Puenner

October 13th -- Linda Thorson, Alicia Toledo

October 18th -- Virginia Dick, Carl Giess

October 19th -- Debbie Wheeler

October 20th -- Kristin Warnock

October 27th -- John Marchak

October 29th -- Jonathan Eggert, 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.

