



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

October 2022 Eagle Newsletter



Galatians 6:9 ESV

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

From the Pastor: Singing in October

*Above all joys on earth
none is more excellent
than that which I offer with my singing
and with many sweet sounds.*

From Martin Luther, *Frau Musica (Lady Music)*. | Translated by Martin P. Dicke

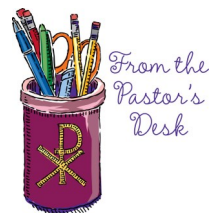
The month of October closes with the celebration of the Reformation on October 31st. On that date in the year 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, which began a debate that erupted into the Reformation of the Western Church. But while the 95 Theses were indeed important, the Reformation was much more than that single event on October 31st.

If the Reformation was limited to academic debates and printed tracts, it would not have gotten very far and would have ended in a fizzle as many other reform efforts had in the past. But the Lutheran Reformation spread throughout the church, and it did so in no small part due to singing. Luther and many other reformers set the teachings of the Reformation to music. The doctrine of salvation by faith alone was the song of the evangelical churches of German and beyond.

This October, we will honor this tradition in our own worship by using Martin Luther's setting of the Divine Service. Divine Service, Setting 5 is a hymn service, with each of the 5 historic songs of the liturgy set to a congregational hymn. Luther often would expand upon the basic text to make his hymns vehicles for teaching. See his hymn, *Kyrie! God, Father*, which takes the basic text (*Kyrie eleison*, Lord, have mercy), and builds a trinitarian hymn with three verses on the works of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Luther's tunes often sound quite foreign to our ears. They utilize unusual scales and sometimes have difficult and unexpected rhythms. It takes some time to get used to them. But there are also great rewards in mastering these hymns. For Luther, the primary goal was not to make the song easy or pleasant to sing, but to set theology to music. The notes often portray what the text says.

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We've been reviewing some of these musical "Easter eggs" in Luther's hymns during Bible class. For instance, the line, *Kyrie O Christ our king*, features three notes at the top of the musical scale for the words "Christ our king," indicating that the Son of God is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity. Then the musical line descends during, *salvation for all you came to bring*, indicating Christ's incarnation, suffering, and death, which wins our salvation. Then the line ascends once more for, *O Lord Jesus, God's own Son*, ending once more with three notes at the top of the scale, which indicates Christ's ascension to God's right hand in heaven.

You may have to give Divine Service, Setting 5 a chance, but I guarantee it will grow on you.

A special opportunity for music in October

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 23rd at 3PM St. John's will host the Kapelle, Concordia University Chicago's premier vocal ensemble. After the concert we will provide a dinner for the choir and our members and guests. The evening will conclude with a service of Evening Prayer at 6:30PM. Stay tuned for more information. Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

In Christ,

under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard

Fall 2022 Tour Concerts



The Kapelle

Conducted by Dr. Charles P. Brown

FRI
OCTOBER

21

7 P.M.

Mequon, WI

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
10729 W. Freistadt Rd. | trinityfreistadt.com

SAT
OCTOBER

22

6:30 P.M.

Belvidere, IL

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School
1045 Belvidere Rd. | immanuelbelvidere.org
The Kapelle will sing during the 8 and 9:15 a.m. worship services on October 23.

SUN
OCTOBER

23

3 P.M.

Chicago, IL

St. John's Lutheran Church & School
4939 W. Montrose Ave. | stjohnschicago.org

Learn more at CUChicago.edu/Kapelle

Ladies Book Club: In October the Ladies Book Club will be reading When Harry Met Minnie by Martha Teichner. In this memoir, Martha Teichner recounts how a chance encounter with an old acquaintance leads to a friendship with a remarkable woman dying from cancer seeking a home for her old, sick dog. It is set in the backdrop of New York City and shows how their relationship changed Martha's life and Carol's death. The Ladies 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 participate.

From the Principal: In addition to thrice weekly faculty devotions, St. John's teachers continue to meet as Prayer Partners twice a week. I started the Prayer Partner Program last year and the faculty desired to continue the program this year. Each teacher has a prayer partner. The program features a book study from Christian authors. The first book this year is Grace Under Pressure - Responding Faithfully to Stress by Pastor Christopher Kennedy. Pastor Kennedy is the senior pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas. This book was chosen based on exit interviews with the faculty last spring. Each teacher communicated to me that the 2021-2022 school year was a difficult year to get through due to many factors outside of our control (covid, violence, etc.). I know for myself, the last two years have been extremely stressful. I pray that this book study will help all of us deal with stress in a God pleasing way. **God is good!**

The teachers also are assigned a book to read over the summer. The book chosen is geared to a school improvement initiative. This book chosen this year is School Culture Rewired – How to Define, Assess, and Transform It. The topic aligns to St. John's NLSA Accreditation School Improvement Plan and the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation School Strategic Plan. Chapters from the book are discussed at Grade Level Meetings and Faculty Meetings. Currently, we are in the definement and assessment phases. **God is Good!**

You are all aware by now that Mr. Knueppel ended his earthly journey and now rests in the arms of God. Mr. Knueppel was the embodiment of a servant that Jesus has called all of us to be. When I learned of his death the words from the first part of Matthew 25:23 came to me: *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* **God is Good!**

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Principal Green

Trivia Night: The Class of 2023 will be hosting Trivia Night on Saturday, October 22nd. Please stay tuned for more details and in the meantime, mark your calendars.

Henry Knueppel Service Live Stream and Choir Participation: I wanted to take a minute to thank each choir member for honoring Henry Knueppel by singing at his celebration of life service. The group of twenty-five present and past choir members were outstanding. I received compliments about the music all afternoon, several mentioning what a blessing it was to have the two choirs at the service.

The children's choir also did a great job on an original arrangement of 'Jesus Loves Me'; their selection sounded great and a final thank you to the instrumentalists Greta and Dave. If you would like to view the recording of the live stream and hear the groups, [here is the link](#). Pastor Ehrhard configured microphones for the groups, and it came out great. Thank you again for contributing your talents to this celebration.

Five current and past church and school music directors were present at the celebration: Katrina Jurica - current school music director, past directors Kristi Heinz, Joseph Klotz, Jayme Wier and Mark Eggert - current director of church music. Each director has a unique set of skills and talents that has kept St. John's music program exciting over the past years.

Mark Eggert





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.

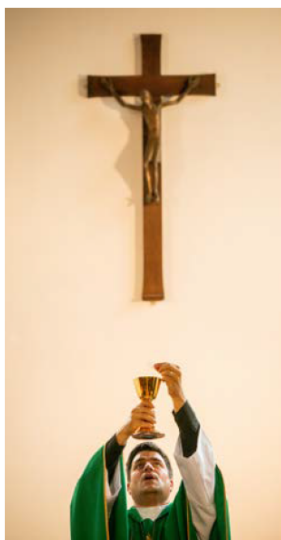
24. for the Church, that she remains faithful to the truth of God's Word.

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



October 2nd

Erin Laskowski

October 3rd

Linda Parker, Linda Spike &
Christina Yerkes

October 4th

Kevin Przybylski & Tim Wier

October 5th

Ainsley Clemente

October 6th

Carmen Van Tilburg & Mark Zanders

October 8th

Ava Helfen

October 9th

Sandy Pavlat, Jon Rutti, Beverly Tentler
& Amber Wilczak

October 11th

Jennifer Banks & Peter Puenner

October 12th

Susan Yates

October 13th

Linda Thorson

October 14th

Jackson Foley

October 15th

Ryan Stinar

October 18th

Virginia Dick

October 19th

Debbie Wheeler

October 20th

Kristin Warnock

October 22nd

Shaun Berger

October 26th

Rachel Kraak & Giada Reyes

October 27th

John Marchak

October 29th

Jonathan Eggert & Reagen Yates

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.

