



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

## October 2023 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: Our Body

We are all one body. St. Paul repeatedly writes this to his congregations. The Romans. The Corinthians. The Ephesians. The Colossians. Even when he doesn't say it explicitly, he implies it. We are all one body.

It's a nice metaphor. Many groups have a corporate identity. The military is one; they learn to march in step with each other. But good businesses know how to foster a corporate identity, too. You're not just an employee, you're part of an organic whole.

But metaphors are only a manner of speaking. No one thinks that the guy in the next cubicle is literally a member of your body. We prize bodily autonomy above all else in our western, liberal culture. My body, my choice.

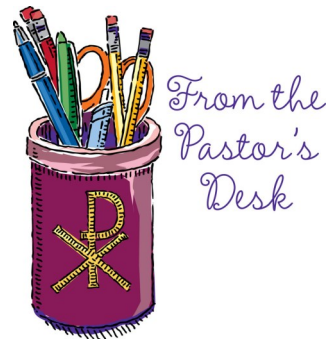
But to kneel at the altar and eat the body of Jesus takes a hammer to bodily autonomy and makes the corporate identity of the church more than a metaphor. "This is my body," says Jesus. "Take, eat." His body becomes part of your body and your body becomes a part of his. We are all one body because we are members of the body of Christ. Not just in a manner of speaking, but in deed and in truth.

So what you do with your body impacts the bodies around you. And what you do to other bodies you do to yourself. St. Paul draws out these implications for married couples, but it's true in a similar way for all members of the body of Christ.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

Next time: Who wants to be the spleen of Jesus?

In Christ,  
under the cross,  
Pastor Ehrhard



**We Need Your Feedback:** Pastor Ehrhard is looking for feedback from you as he plans the upcoming year of grace at St. John's beginning in Advent. Please use the following link to find a questionnaire about the settings of the Divine Service in Lutheran Service Book.

<https://forms.gle/xmWhfyhg5y1EU7sn8>

**Ladies Book Club:** In October the Ladies Book Club will be reading About Your Father and Other Celebrities I Have Known by Peggy Rowe. Peggy is the mother of Mike Rowe from "Dirtiest Jobs". This collection of easily relatable humorous family stories often found me laughing out loud. If you are in the mood for a light-hearted read, this will do the trick. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.



**From the Principal:** Last week was midterm for our students of St. John's which means we have already made it over half way through our first quarter in what feels like a blink of an eye. We continue to celebrate having 162 students at school for the 2023-2024 school year. This is the highest enrollment we have had in the last 5 years!

When families choose for their students to receive a Christian education, they may have to make many sacrifices to afford such a choice. We are fortunate enough to give our families the opportunity to apply for financial assistance. Thanks to the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF), the Henry Knueppel Endowment Fund, John B. Wellen Scholarship for Music and Leadership, our Angel Program, and our Agape Fund, we are able to award our families about \$100,000 in tuition assistance.

If you are passionate about Christian education in Chicago and desire to help support the students of St. John's Lutheran School, please consider making a donation to one of these scholarship programs. Visit <https://www.stjohnschicago.org/give.html> to make a contribution. The success of our school's future relies on the gracious donations of those who support us. We are thankful for your support and prayers during this 147<sup>th</sup> school year.

If you are interested in learning more specific details about one of these programs, please feel free to contact me at 773-736-1196 or [mrunge@stjohnschicago.org](mailto:mrunge@stjohnschicago.org).

**You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. - 2 Corinthians 9:11**

Mrs. Runge

**From the Trustees:** The Trustees are working on several projects to improve the church and school building including tuckpointing on south wall of church, replacing a fan motor and thermostat on an HVAC unit, having the sign on the south wall of the church removed, refinishing school door #3, and enhancing security of the school.

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League:** The month of October is recognized by Missouri Synod churches to be the month we remember the mission work that the national LWML accomplishes throughout the world. St. John's LWML continues to support these missions as well as aiding the work of Reverend Delwyn Campbell and his wife to the people in Gary, Indiana. Your donation for this mission work will be greatly appreciated. Please indicate on your donation envelope that your gift should go to St. John's LWML and it will be sent on to the NID District LWML. Thank you for supporting mission work.



## Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUEO

Find and Listen at [kfueo.org](http://kfueo.org) and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUEOradio](https://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.

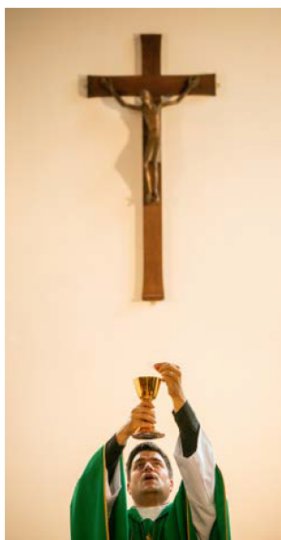
24. for the Church, that she remains faithful to the truth of God's Word.

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](https://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

Mark Zanders

October 8th

Ava Helfen

October 9th

Sandy Pavlat, Jon Rutti,  
Beverly Tentler & Amber Wilczak

October 11th

Peter Puenner

October 12th

Susan Yates

October 13th

Chloe Todd & Alicia Toledo

October 15th

Ryan Stinar

October 16th

Leo Eraso

October 18th

Virginia Dick

October 19th

Debbie Wheeler

October 20th

Kristin Warnock

October 22nd

Shaun Berger

October 26th

Rachel Kraak & Giada Reyes

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.

