



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

September 2020 Eagle Newsletter



Proverbs 22:6 ESV

"Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it."



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/>

From the Principal: I am writing this article the day before the 2020-2021 school year starts. This year will be unlike any in my career and maybe even in the history of St. John's Lutheran School. Social distancing, Covid-19, daily temperature checks, regular sanitizing of the school, personal protective equipment, remote learning, and 14-day quarantine periods were not in existence for most elementary schools last year at this time.



Two questions that will be asked during our first faculty devotion are. "Where is God?" and "Does He Care?" Dr. Ken Klaus in writing this devotion for Lutheran Hour Ministries speaks of two stories in the Gospels where Jesus' disciples may have at least had these thoughts. The disciples were in the boat with Jesus and a furious storm came up. Jesus was asleep. You know the story. The men were terrified and questioned whether Jesus even cared about them. Jesus' simple response was to silence the storm with a word.

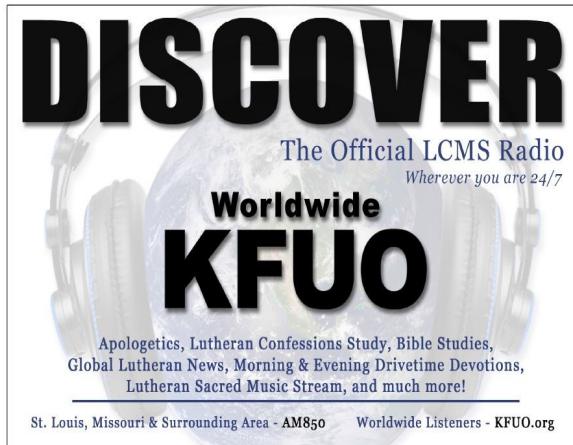
For many of us, we are in the midst of a storm that we have never experienced before. As I write this, over 25 million people in the world have been diagnosed with Covid-19. Our country alone has experienced over 5 million infected people with over 174,000 deaths. We may be wondering, 'Where is God?' 'Does He even care?' old on to the words that Jesus spoke to the storm, "Peace, Be Still." – Mark 4:39. The Covid-19 storm will pass. My personal prayer is that God would help me "be still and know that He is God." And when the storm passes, "He will be exalted among the nations, He will be exalted on the earth! - Psalm 46:10

As we begin school, I am asking that when coming into the school building that all wear masks and come to the office for a temperature check. Extra hand sanitizing stations have been put in place. Please help us keep the students of St. John's safe and healthy.

Dan Green – Principal

Ladies Book Club: In September, the Ladies Book Club will be reading Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly. This New York Times bestseller is based on the real-life story of a New York socialite who championed a group of 3 women concentration camp survivors of World War II. This month, August, for the first time, we will be meeting by Zoom. If successful, we will meet this way the last Tuesday of September at 7PM.





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUD

Find and Listen at kfud.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUDradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUDradio).

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 KFUD 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!

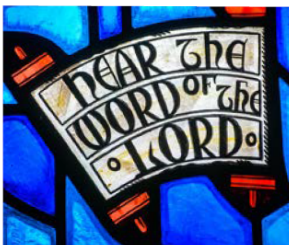
CROSS DEFENSE—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

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.





AUGUST

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

CHURCH WORKERS — AUGUST 1-15

Pastors; deaconesses; Lutheran school teachers; directors of Christian education, Christian outreach and family life ministry; parish musicians. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is blessed with many faithful church workers who assist and lead people in participating in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, while building up the Body of Christ.

Remember God's work through the Synod's church workers as you pray:

1. with thanksgiving for the many dedicated church workers in the LCMS, who share in our joys and sorrows. Ask the Lord to comfort and defend them from every assault of the devil.

2. for the Synod's pastors, that they would hold fast to the Word of God and find strength to continue preaching God's truth in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.

3. for the Synod's deaconesses. Pray that they would be equipped with all things needful to love and serve people in every situation.

4. that God would bless the work of directors of Christian education, as they develop educational ministries for children, youth, adults and families.

5. for the Synod's directors of Christian outreach, that God would guide their efforts to support a congregation's or organization's outreach and evangelism work.

6. for directors of family life ministry. Ask that God would guide their vital work to strengthen the families in our congregations.

7. for teachers and administrators in Lutheran schools, that they would model Christ-like behavior

for students and incorporate the Gospel message into each and every day.

8. for directors of parish music, that they would find joy and satisfaction in their work of enhancing the worship life of the church.

9. for the Synod's commissioned lay ministers, who work under a pastor's guidance to support a church's efforts in evangelism, Christian education, parish administration and other areas that are God-pleasing.

10. for missionaries, who leave home and family to work in faraway lands. Ask God to give them strength, wisdom and protection as they do His work.

11. for those involved in Specialized Pastoral Ministry, who serve the ill, imprisoned, aging, troubled and isolated. Give thanks for their service to people in the midst of tragedy or crisis.

12. for military chaplains, who put themselves in harm's way to minister to members of our armed forces. Ask God to keep them safe as they share Christ's love with our servicemen and women.

13. for the health and well-being of all church workers, that they would utilize opportunities for rest and renewal.

14. with thanksgiving for every person who volunteers in a congregation as an elder, an usher, a Sunday school teacher or in another capacity. Praise God that He calls His people to support full-time church workers in a variety of ways.

15. with thankful hearts for the blessings God gives to His people through full-time church workers. These faithful men and women care for us, pray for us and teach us the Word of God.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/DEREK M. LUNSFORD

AUGUST Pray For Us Calendar

THE CHURCH — AUGUST 16-31

"The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments" (Augsburg Confession VII).

Remember God's work through the Church as you pray:

16. with thanksgiving to God for raising up voices in every age and generation as He continues to call people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

17. that God would raise up in our own time faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of His people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith.

18. with thanksgiving that God does His bidding through unworthy and unlikely people. Pray that He would keep us from thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought and keep us focused on the proclamation of the Gospel.

19. that God would give us faith so that we may not fear in times of trouble nor fall away in times of prosperity.

20. for the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above to be given to us, so that

God's Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people.

21. that the Church would work together in God-pleasing unity and that their joint efforts would further God's kingdom.

22. for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and other institutions that prepare servants for the Church, that they would properly prepare men and women to serve God and His Church.

23. with thanksgiving for every person and organization that supports the work of the Church. The prayers and financial support of God's people enable the Gospel to be shared at home and around the world.

24. for young people, that the Lord would lead them to serve Him and bless His people.

25. for us, that when we are tempted to focus on the things

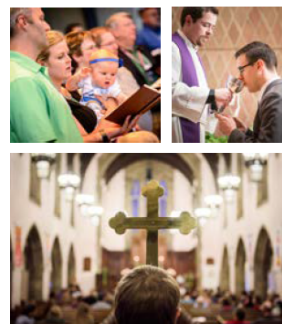


of the world or on ourselves, God would direct our attention to His Word and will.

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

27. with thankful hearts to God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again so that we might have the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

28. that we would joyfully study the Sacred Scriptures as a light to our path and gratefully make



use of the Lutheran Confessions to help us understand and apply the Scriptures.

29. with thanksgiving for shepherds in the Church's history and pastors today, whom God uses to guide His flock.

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. that we all would be given a trust in the saving Gospel and a great passion to spread its joy with others in our lives.

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.



PHOTOS: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/DEREK M. LUNSFORD



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd - Russell Meyer, Aileen Sluka

4th - Leona Burger, Amelia Smallfield

5th - Daniela Lively

6th - Curtis Owen

7th - Peggy Kline, Midge Quest

8th - Margarete Giess

9th - Mike Mayrens, Cindy Thompson

10th - Luanne Gegeanis, Mark Lauer

14th - Pastor Jacob Ehrhard

15th - Marc Schuemer

16th - Susan Beeson, Roger Burden

17th - Douglas McLane

18th - Sandra Banko, Douglas Markworth, Steven Zanders

20th - Michelle Clark, Ashley Scott

21st - Jennifer Foley, Marge Gall, Terry Wilczak

22nd - Jacqueline Schacht, Michael Steigerwald

23rd - Carolina Giral

24th - Arnold Diaz, Dolores Sauser, Nikki Wardecki

25th - Margot Hernandez

26th - Grant Riley

28th - George Przybylski

29th - Meghan Davis

30th - Timothy Schmidt





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

by HR Curtis

What Is Stewardship? Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's: Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it". Additionally, "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" – 1 Tim 6:7. Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this parish. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 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. . . . 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.

What does this mean? Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

Call to Action: Prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe (10%) of your income to the work of God? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not? In next month's newsletter we'll consider more of what God says about Stewardship – specifically more about tithing (the Biblical practice of giving a tenth of our income to God's work in the Church).