



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

September 2022 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."

From the Pastor: A New Schedule

For two years we have had an exceptional Sunday morning schedule due to the various and repeated interruptions of the Covid pandemic. We've adjusted and adapted based upon the most recent guidelines and accepted practices. Covid has now become a part of life and the emergency has ended. Rather than try to return to how things were in January of 2020, we are going to press forward into a renewed life together. Beginning on Sunday, September 11th our Sunday mornings will offer an opportunity for worshipping together, studying and growing together, and sharing fellowship together.

Sundays at 9:00AM – Divine Service: Lutherans in the time of the Reformation called this the Chief Divine Service—the regular, weekly distribution of the Word of God and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, around which the rest of the church's life rotated. We will focus on a single Divine Service each Sunday morning to bring together our members to receive God's gifts and respond with one voice in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. While a single Sunday morning service is a reduction in the number of services, I encourage you to consider it a strengthening of our worshipping community by bringing us together with one heart and voice in worship. By beginning our Divine Service at the top of the hour, we will signal that this is the primary source of our life together as the children of God. Sunday morning worship will continue to rotate worship settings based upon the season of the church year.

Sundays at 10:15AM – Fellowship and Family Bible Hour: The two things our members have repeatedly told me they missed during the Covid interruption is the opportunity for fellowship and biblical and catechetical education, especially for our children. Beginning September 11th we will offer a time of fellowship around coffee and other morning treats following the Divine Service. This time of fellowship will lead directly into an intergenerational time of prayer and introduction to the biblical and catechetical theme for the day. After our opening, we will dismiss into cohorts based upon age to reinforce and enrich the main lesson of the day. All members of St. John's from infant to elderly will read and reflect upon the same Scripture every week, being drawn together by the Word of God.

Fellowship and Family Bible Hour will begin in the Fellowship Room and will dismiss at around 11:15AM.

Sundays at 6:00PM – Evening Divine Service: Our alternate Divine Service will remain at 6PM on Sunday evenings. Later this fall, we will begin to differentiate the evening Divine Service as a more reflective and contemplative service with some additional liturgical ceremonies and an "unplugged" atmosphere.

I am also going to make the 6PM service an opportunity to focus on the liturgical heritage of the Lutheran Church and use Divine Service, Setting 3 (the Common Service) as the main setting. Where the Sunday morning service will rotate settings, the Evening Divine Service will maintain a consistent liturgical setting with only minor variations throughout the year.

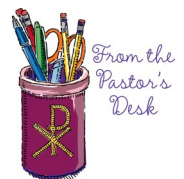
Introducing Kids in the Divine Service: Since I have arrived at St. John's, people have asked me about ways to get kids more involved with worship *and* to explain more about why we do what we do in worship. Beginning on September 11th, I will begin the service with a brief Kids in the Divine Service opening. After the Hymn of Invocation, I will invite the children of the congregation to come forward and explain one element of liturgy, worship, ceremony, or the church year.

I will do this at the beginning of the service because I plan to offer regular "worship challenges," such as identifying one place in the service to make the sign of the cross, and to earn a small reward at our Family Bible Hour.

I hope that this new schedule will not only be a blessing to you, but that it will help strengthen our congregation and bring us ever more closely together as God's children in Northwest Chicago.

In Christ,

under the cross,
Pastor Ehrhard



From the Principal: St. John's began it's 146th year on August 22nd, 2022. We welcomed 141 students and their families to the school. Of the 140 students, 42 are new to St. John's this school year. Our PK-4 is full while PK-3 has room for 3 more students. First and seventh grades have limited openings. All other classes have unlimited openings at this time. **God is good!**

Last month I featured the faculty who assisted in preparing the school for opening. There were others who played instrumental parts in preparing for the 2022–2023 school year. The UKANDU group ran out of time so they were unable to complete the computer lab painting project. Pastor Ehrhard and Ron Byall stepped in to finish the project. One of my directives to the faculty this summer was "Clean the Clutter". A 30-yard dumpster was rented and we were able to dispose of 8,000 pounds of items no longer being used. This meant that help was needed in moving heavy items out of the school. Jake Runge assisted greatly with this project. The Chicago Fire Department conducted a building inspection of St. John's in the spring and cited several areas that needed attention. One item cited was lack of signage for the multiple fire extinguishers throughout the building. Mark Zanders Sr. and Ron Byall spent a couple of hours putting up the fire extinguisher signs. While a couple of items still need to be addressed St. John's passed the reinspection in August. **God Is Good!**

St. John's PTL made the first day of school memorable for the students and faculty. The PTL sponsored a Hot Dog Lunch and provided several activities for the students to participate in during the afternoon. There was a petting zoo, face painter, bounce house, games and the Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs. PTL leaders Heather Bosko, Gretal Ehrhard, and Toni Pancorvo organized the event and many parents assisted. It was an exciting way to start the school year. **God Is Good!**

Thank you for your prayers and support!

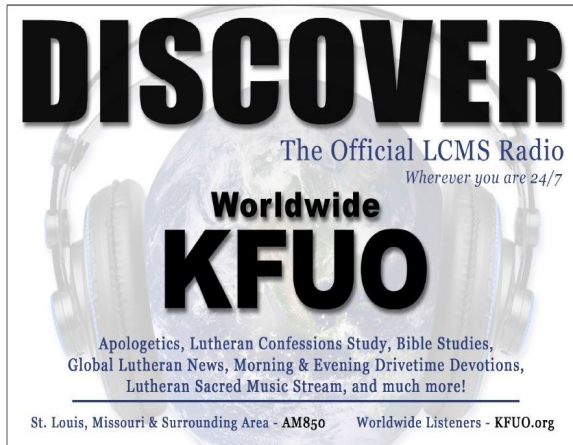
Dan Green – Principal

Voters Meeting: The regularly-scheduled Voters Meeting will be on October 2nd, 2022.

From the Trustees: The Trustees are working on several projects, including building the new church stairs and tuckpointing the east wall to seal bricks from water damage.

Ladies Book Club: In September the Ladies Book Club will be reading Life After Windows by Inez Ribustello. In her memoir, Inez recounts her journey from North Carolina to her dream job at Windows for the World in the Twin Towers of New York City. On September 11th she was at home in North Carolina attending her sister's wedding. She describes her life before and after September 11th, her grief and growth. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carrey if you would like to join us.





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.





SEPTEMBER

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Pray For Us Calendar

THE CREED — SEPTEMBER 1-15

We confess the three ecumenical Creeds, the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian. We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, three persons. Luther's explanation of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism teaches important truths about God as our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

Rejoice in God's goodness in Christ as you pray:

1. Thank God that He is our loving heavenly Father.
2. Thank God for His creation.
3. Thank God for daily bread. Pray that all would be fed and clothed this day.
4. Thank God for family. Pray that God would guide all families love each other with the love of God in Christ Jesus.
5. Thank God for shelter. Pray for those who are without homes this day.
6. Thank God for reason. Pray that learning and intellect

are always in service of God's Kingdom.

7. Thank God for Jesus. He is our only Savior from sin, death and the power of the devil.
8. Rejoice that Jesus is true man, that He can sympathize with our weaknesses.
9. Rejoice that Jesus is true God, that our Savior is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
10. Repent of all your sins and trust that God forgives your sins through the blood of Jesus.
11. Pray that God would empower you, by His Spirit, to live in righteousness, innocence and blessedness.

12. Thank God that He freely gives faith and salvation through His Spirit. Pray that all would hear the Word and be Baptized according to His will.

13. Thank God for the Holy Spirit. Pray that He would keep all in the true faith.

14. Thank God for the Church. Pray that she would remain faithful to her Savior.

15. Rejoice that God gives and sustains faith in the Holy Trinity. Rejoice that God is love.



PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/ERIK M. LINSFORD

SEPTEMBER Pray For Us Calendar

OFFICE OF THE KEYS/CONFESSION — SEPTEMBER 16-30

Jesus gave the office of the keys to the Church through His Apostles. Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second that we receive the forgiveness of our sins.

Rejoice in the gifts of Confession and Absolution as you pray:

16. That God would lead all sinners to repentance.
17. Confess your sins before God. Trust that God forgives your sins through Christ Jesus.
18. Thank God for your pastor and all pastors. Pray that God would grant them faith and strength in their Word and Sacrament ministry.
19. Thank God for corporate confession and absolution each Sunday.
20. Thank God for the opportunity for individual confession and absolution with your pastor.
21. Thank God for the vocations He has given to you. Pray that you serve Him and your neighbor faithfully each day.
22. Pray for all unbelievers, that they would repent and trust in Christ.

23. Pray for all who are caught in unrepentant sin, that they would humbly confess their sins and receive holy Absolution.

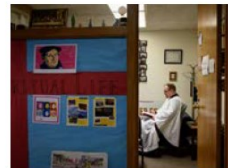
24. Pray for the Spirit to empower you to amend your sinful life, that all you think, say and do would please God.

25. Thank God for the Church. Pray that the Church remain faithful to the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments according to God's will.

26. Pray for those who have stopped attending church. Ask God to provide someone to share Christ with them and bring them back.

27. Pray for Christian parents, that they would model forgiveness and raise their children in the Christian faith.

28. Pray for the strength to forgive people in your life. Ask God to give the faith necessary to forgive as He forgives.



29. Thank God that He always answers our confession with words of forgiveness and life.

30. Pray that Jesus would return quickly, that sin and death will soon be finally defeated, and God's people will dwell with Him forever.

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. LINSFORD



September 3rd

Evert Berger & Russell Meyer

September 4th

Sarah Balsters & Amelia Smallfield

September 7th

Midge Quest

September 8th

Margarete Giess & Maeve Thorbahn

September 9th

Cindy Thompson

September 10th

Bryson Runge

September 11th

Stephany Scott

September 14th

Jacob Ehrhard

September 15th

Marc Schuemer & Nathaniel Woods

September 16th

Susan Beeson & Roger Burden

September 17th

Douglas McLane

September 18th

David Balsters, Sandra Banko & Steven Zanders

September 20th

Michelle Clark & Ashley Scott

September 21st

Jennifer Foley, Marge Gall & Terry Wilczak

September 22nd

Elayne Castro, Jacqueline Schacht &
Michael Steigerwald

September 23rd

Carolina Giral

September 24th

Arnold Diaz & Nikki Wardecki

September 25th

Margot Hernandez

September 28th

George Przybylski

September 29th

Addison Gaertner

September 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).