



St. John's
Lutheran Church
& School

September 2023 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:

Unio

The title of this article isn't misspelled. It's the Latin word *unio*. You can easily see that it's the basis for our English word "union." Just add an "n." It means "joining," or "making one." In theology, there are three kinds of union that are all Christological (related to Christ), but distinct from each other.

The first is personal union. This term describes the union of the divine and human natures in the one person of Jesus Christ. Actually, a more accurate way of saying it is that the human nature is assumed by the divine person, the second person of the Holy Trinity, who is called the Son of God or the Word of God. The Son of God has always been a person, but there was a time when human nature was not. The personal union is full and complete, such that, following the incarnation of Jesus, there exists no part of the divine Son of God that is not also fully and completely human. This is a mystery that cannot be fully understood, which is why it features so prominently in the creeds of the church as an article of faith. The personal union is limited to the person of Jesus Christ; no other creature is united to God in the way that the humanity is united to the Son of God.

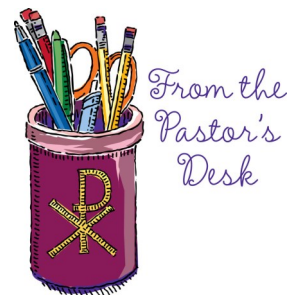
The second kind of union is sacramental union. This union describes the union of body and bread, blood and wine, in the sacrament. Again, this union is a mystery that cannot be described in a natural and rational way. But because of Jesus' declaration, "This is my body...this is my blood," we believe that where this bread is taken and eaten, that is, the bread that is blessed with this Word of God, the body of Christ is also there. The sacramental union is unique. And while it is analogous to the personal union, it is distinct due to the distinct Word of God that is added to it.

The final kind of union is a result of the first two. It is often called mystical union. As the name suggests, it is also a mystery, which cannot be explained in scientific terms. The mystical union is the union of each and every believer with Christ, and by extension, with one another. The Bible frequently speaks of union with Christ and being members of His body and often pairs these declarations with one of the sacraments. In a very real, though mysterious way, by participating in the sacraments (which engage the body in addition to the heart and mind), we become part of the body of Christ.

Next time: One body

In Christ,
under the cross,

Pastor Ehrhard



From the Principal: In early August the St. John's faculty attended both the NID Back to School Worship service and the CLEF Networking Conference as we prepared for our return to school. These gatherings filled the attendees with JOY, as that was the underlying theme for both. Some of the JOYFUL moments for the 2023-2024 school year of St. John's Lutheran are listed below.

It is with JOY that I introduce to you our two new teachers on staff. Mrs. Linsey Baldrige is our new 5th Grade teacher. Ms. Camille Vincente will be our new High School Prep math teacher and 7th Grade home-room teacher. Mr. Benedict has moved to be our 8th Grade homeroom teacher.

It is with JOY that I tell you we have 161 students as a part of our St. John's family this year, which is 26 more students than what we ended with last school year. Praise the Lord for our growing community! Throughout the year, our students will be JOYFUL to work through a new science curriculum from Discovery Education and/or when they visit our new Maker Space Room.

On our first day of school, Monday, August 21st, our PTL brought the JOY with a Back to School celebration. Our school community enjoyed a hot dog lunch, a visit from Clark the Chicago Cubs mascot, a bounce house, the LCC Comfort Dogs, a unique petting zoo, and time on the playground with popsicles and music from our very own DJ Pastor!

However, the greatest JOY our faculty and staff will get to have this year is sharing the love of our Lord & Savior, Jesus with our students and their families each and every day! *May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope* Romans 15:13

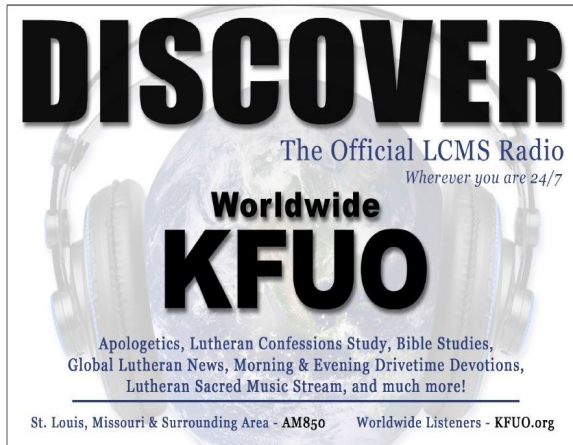
Mrs. Runge – Principal

Voters Meeting: The regularly-scheduled Voters Meeting will be on September 10th, 2023.

From the Trustees: The Trustees are working on several projects including tuckpointing and roof repairs on the east side of the church as well as painting the stairwell near the organ loft. The gutter downspout will be extended to prevent water from damaging the roof.

Ladies Book Club: In September the Ladies Book Club will be reading All the Broken Places by John Boyne. This novel focuses on the life of 91 year old Gretel Fernsby. It moves back and forth in time between Gretel's girlhood in Nazi Germany and present-day London. Gretel must choose between protecting secrets of her past and saving a young boy. This compelling story shows it's never too late for bravery. The Ladies Book Club still meets via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.





Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO

Find and Listen at kfuo.org and follow us at Facebook.com/KFUORadio.

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 KFUO 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.

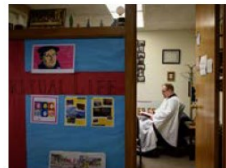
24. Pray for the Spirit to empower you to amend your sinful life, that all you think, say and do would please God.

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 Birthdays

September 3rd

Evert Berger & Russell Meyer

September 4th

Sarah Balsters & Amelia Smallfield

September 5th

Jack Bakula

September 6th

Curtis Owen

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

September 17th

Douglas McLane

September 18th

David Balsters, Sandy Banko &
Steven Zanders

September 20th

Ashley Scott

September 21st

Marge Gall & Terry Wilczak

September 22nd

Jacqueline Schacht

September 23rd

Carolina Giral

September 24th

Nikki Wardecki

September 25th

Margot Hernandez

September 28th

Jaclyn Jensen & George Przybylski

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).