



St. John's Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

901 SW Fillmore Street • Topeka, Kansas • 66606-1445 • 785.354.7132 • www.stjohnlcmstopeka.org

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DAILY BREAD & LONGING FOR ETERNITY

We pray in the Lord's Prayer for daily bread. The Small Catechism teaches that "Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." This is a pretty comprehensive list of what God provides for our daily bread. But all of this, eventually, and finally, will be taken away from us—not because God is punishing us, but because this is not the goal of life. There is more to life than these things. In fact, we will truly live when all these things are taken away, and we no longer need to pray for daily bread.

For God our Father in heaven is calling us home to Himself. We are just sojourners here. We are on a journey in the wilderness of this world toward our true home, the land of promise, in heaven. Everything that we have in this world and this life will be left behind.

But as much as we long for heaven, as much as we eagerly await that time when our Lord will take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven, we still struggle with letting go of what we have in this world. We still suffer the temptation to hold on to this life and this world and the things of this life and this world. But this is not our true home. And as good as this life is, and it is often by God's grace very good, the life to come in His kingdom far exceeds it.

And giving, stewardship, is a practice that teaches us to look to, long for, and trust in the eternal realities rather than the earthly. It teaches us to loosen our hold and let go of those things that keep us earthly minded, so that we may look what our Father in heaven has in store for us for all eternity. It teaches us to concentrate on what God has done, is doing, and will do for us instead of the constant work-a-day world and noise that we have here. It teaches us to long for that better country, the heavenly one. For God is not ashamed to be called our God. And He has prepared for us a city, His city, not made with hands.

Thus we give generously to the church, to our family, to those in society. We release our grasp on what would keep our focus on the here and now, so that we would be free to receive and rejoice in what our future shall be in heaven. We invest where moth and rust will not destroy. We put our treasures so that our hearts will follow them (Matt 6:21; Luke 12:34). For we are only of any earthly good, when we are truly heavenly minded. Make this your practice for your own good eternally and your neighbors' good temporally.

The following article was taken from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod website under Resources/Stewardship Education.

Pastor - Rev. Peter K. Lange, ext. 101

Assistant Pastor - Rev. Jon S. Bruss, ext. 104

Deaconess - Linda S. Kinnett, ext. 102

Kantor - Rev. Roger M. Goetz

Visitation Pastor - Rev. Glenn R. Bitter

Day School Teachers - Ashley Jensema, Andrea Kosmicki, Marcia Lange

A SPECIAL ORGAN CONCERT

In the summer of 2005, my wife and I went to visit Pastor Ted and Carol Staudacher in Michigan (Pastor Staudacher was senior pastor of St. John's from 1979 until he retired in 1999). While we were there, the four of us were invited over for an evening meal at the home of Pastor Wurst, the pastor of their church. As we entered the front door, Pastor Ted told me I should hear his son Steve Wurst play the piano because he was really good. So I asked Steve to play for me.

I was astounded at how very well he played for a boy who had only just finished sixth grade. Thus, I told Steve and his parents that he should start organ lessons that fall and that I would pay for him to have lessons every other week. Steve did just that. Soon after he started lessons, his organ teacher was so pleased with his abilities that she arranged for the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists to give him a scholarship so he could take lessons every week. After a couple of years, I no longer needed to help pay for his lessons.

Six summers later, in 2011, Betty and I were visiting the Staudachers and went to an organ concert given half by Steve and half by another organ student (both had just graduated from high school). At one point in the concert, we were surprised to see both boys get on the organ bench together and play a piece they had arranged as an organ duet. During this piece, the boy on the left slid off the bench and walked around to the right. The other boy continued playing and slid left on the bench. The boy standing on the right then got on the bench and joined in playing till the piece ended. The audience was enthusiastic in their applause.

That fall, Steve went off to Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW), one of the colleges of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I heard recently from a music professor at CUW that Steve is one of their top organists. On April 14, Steve's email to me included the following good news:

I have also made a decision on graduate schools. I will be attending Oklahoma University on a full graduate assistantship that completely covers tuition and includes a stipend. I am very excited for this opportunity, and am so grateful for your part in all of this.

I'm excited about hearing him play again, especially Toccata on Two Carols which he composed using the tunes of "Savior of the Nations, Come" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful". **The concert will be at St. John's on Sunday, May 31, at 3:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend.**

Pastor Goetz

YOUTH NEWS

Saturday, June 6: GOLF SCRAMBLE. This is the youth's annual fundraiser at Forbes Golf Course. This will be another 18-hole (2 rounds of 9) shotgun start, so start assembling your teams now. Prizes, a delicious lunch, goodie bags and loads of fun are just waiting for all you golfers. Registration sheets will be out in March, but you can sign up early by talking to Kathy Gehrke (785-331-4641) or by letting Jim Simpson know.

2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS JUNE 28

The month of June will be the backdrop for this year's stewardship education Sundays culminating in an opportunity for commitment on "Stewardship Sunday," June 28. Please mark these Sundays, and especially June 28, on your calendar as a time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and commitment here at St. John's.

Biblical stewardship helps to educate Christian disciples...not just raise money. To put it another way, biblical stewardship is not based on the budgetary needs of the church, but on the desire to have each person grow in discipleship and to experience the joy of giving in spontaneous thanksgiving for God's goodness and mercy. This year's "season of stewardship" will take place on Sundays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28 and will include the following:

- Stewardship applications in the Sunday sermons
- Stewardship Bible studies on Sunday mornings
- Scriptural reflections on stewardship shared by some of our members
- Stewardship education resources
- Congregational prayer for growth in biblical stewardship
- Celebration of the various aspects of our congregation's ministry
- Stewardship Sunday on June 28, with an opportunity to make a stewardship commitment during the single 10 a.m. worship service.
- A pot luck celebration meal following the single service

As with last year, commitment cards will be mailed out early to give members/families time to give prayerful consideration of their commitment for 2015. Also, as with last year, completion of a commitment card during the June 28 service will be completely voluntary. If you are unable to attend on Stewardship Sunday, you may leave your completed commitment card in a sealed envelope in the collection plate or in the church office.

There will be no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. Since there will be no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inspire everyone to be present on Stewardship Sunday and for the opportunities leading up to that date. We pray that you will take advantage of all that is planned to educate the God's saints at St. John's in the blessing of joyful giving.

2015 Stewardship Campaign Committee

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Periodically we are providing a financial accounting of the loan for the building improvement as provided to the Board of Stewardship and the Church Council each month. The figures below are for the end of March. It should be noted that, for the months of January and March this year, receipts did not cover our monthly payment. For now there are enough funds in the Building Fund account to cover these shortages. However this will have to be looked at closely both with the 2016 budget and with any new capital campaign that may be implemented at the end of this year. If there are any questions, please contact a member of the Board of Stewardship.

<u>Amount Refinanced</u>	<u>Monthly Payment</u>	<u>Cumulative Interest</u>	<u>Cumulative Principle</u>	<u>Loan Balance</u>
\$1,092,778.78	\$6,839.64	\$95,050.03	\$125,809.07	\$966,969.72

MAY BREAKFAST

The May monthly breakfast, on Mothers' Day, May 10 will be hosted by the Board of Elders. **Bring a casserole, meat, or any kind of breakfast food for the potluck after early service at 9:15.**

SPRING SALAD SUPPER

Ladies of all ages, 0-100, are welcome to the annual **Spring Salad Supper, on Wednesday, May 6**, and may bring a special tea set, tea pot or tea cup. The dining room will be open at 5:30, with the meal to begin at 6:00. Please bring a salad large enough to share and join in the celebration of our Spirituali-TEA. Table service and drinks will be provided. No advance registration is needed. As part of the program, those toting in tea pots, sets, or cups are welcome, but not required, to share a short description of their special item. Please contact Betty Fincher, 379-5614, if you plan to bring these to adorn the table. Any questions about the Spring Salad Supper may be directed to Ruth Scott, 272-4971.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

There will be no Christian Fellowship meeting held in May. Information about proceeds from the April 28 Smorgasbord and mission recipients will be shared as soon as that recommendation is available.

LWML

Sunday, June 14 is the date for the next LWML quarterly. At 2:00 in the Undercroft and Youth Room, we will again be tying quilts and also making greeting cards for shut-ins. It would be helpful to bring your own scissors and large-eye needles. Please plan to come join in the fellowship while busy, crafty hands are helping others. Invite a friend, as guests are welcome!

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S LEAGUE

MISSION GIFTS (RECEIVED IN 2014 – DISTRIBUTED IN 2015)

The St. John's Women's League would like to thank each of you that helped with the Bazaar and Luncheon. The following is a breakdown of how the funds were dispersed towards missions:

Bethesda Lutheran Home & Services, Inc.	\$ 150.00	LCMS World Relief/Human Care Missions	\$ 500.00
Concordia Seminary – Ft. Wayne Student Assistance	\$ 300.00	Lutheran Bible Translators	\$ 150.00
Concordia Theological Seminary Military Project	\$ 300.00	Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc.	\$ 200.00
Concordia University – Seward Dennis Hintz Scholarship	\$ 200.00	Lutheran's For Life	\$ 300.00
Concordia University – St. Louis Student Assistance	\$ 300.00	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$ 250.00
Doorstep	\$ 300.00	Lutheran Hour	\$ 300.00
Haskell Indian Lighthouse	\$ 300.00	LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund	\$ 100.00
KS District LCMS Kansa Seed Deaf Ministry	\$ 200.00	Marian Clinic	\$ 300.00
Labors for Christ	\$ 200.00	Soldier of the Cross	\$ 400.00
Let's Help	\$ 300.00	The Apple of His Eye Ministry	\$ 100.00
LCMS National Offering Global Missions	\$ 250.00	The Orphan Grain Train	\$ 100.00
LCMS World Relief/Human Care – Disaster	\$ 500.00	Topeka Lutheran School	\$ 500.00
		Topeka Lutheran School Center for Young Children	\$ 500.00
		Topeka Rescue Mission	\$ 500.00
		Distributed in April 2015	\$7,500.00

WOMEN'S LEAGUE CARING & MISSION

We will be preparing Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief May thru June.

Items needed are:

Light weight bath size towels (approximately 52" x 27", dark color)

Bath size soap bars (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapper)

Sturdy combs

Metal nail clippers

Adult size toothbrush in original wrapper

If you would rather let us do the shopping, monetary gifts will be accepted.

THANK YOU NOTES

A late THANK YOU for the LWML March Quarterly attendees and guests who helped tie TWELVE quilts that will be donated to the Lutheran World Relief. Dorcas Circle members provided wonderful refreshments and much was accomplished in the two hour project! Thanks again and make plans to attend the June 14 Quarterly, as more quilts will be ready for tying, along with an option for card making.

The Christian Fellowship Members would like to THANK all those volunteers who assisted in making the April Smorgasbord possible. Many hours of hard work were needed days before and the day of the mission fundraiser. The mission gift recipients will be provided in a later newsletter. All the time and talents donated are greatly appreciated!

MANY THANKS:

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, there are many people who made so much possible and this is a thank you to them all. First of all, we thank the members of the Kantorei and Klingerei for participating in various ways to provide special music for various services at St. John's thereby helping to make this a musically excellent season at our church. We also thank Deaconess Linda Kinnett, Andrea Kosmicki, the Sunday School staff, and the Sunday School children, for the wonderful music the children gave us on Palm Sunday. During this time we were blessed with the superb solo singing/chanting of Sue Revelle, Guy Luebbe, and Pastors Bitter, Lange, and Bruss; and we thank them as well. Special thanks are also due to instrumentalists, Sue Revelle (violin), Noah Riley (cello), Tracy Ireland (clarinet), Erik Berggren (trombone), his daughter Kensy Byers (trumpet), Nathan Jones-Walker (trumpet), Deaconess Kinnett (piano), Bev Sparks (organ and piano), Marcia Wade (organ), and Mitch Bean (organ). Accolades are especially due to Sue Revelle, Assistant Director of the Kantorei, and to Deaconess Kinnett for the many, many extra hours they put in to make so much wonderful music happen. We also thank God for the office staff, the Altar Guild, our sextons, and DCE Hintz, on top of our ushering staff, greeters, coffee preparers, and those involved with the Lenten suppers for all they did.

Thanks to you all for making this possible!

Cordially in Christ,
Pastor Goetz

TLS GRADUATION

Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
At St. John's Lutheran Church
(Reception to Follow)

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL/TOPEKA CEMETERY

Saturday, May 16, 2015 is the day that the "Keep America Beautiful" event is scheduled for the Topeka Cemetery at 10th and California to prepare the cemetery grounds for Memorial Day. St. John's has owned Section 79 for burial of its members and descendants for decades. Volunteers from St. John's are needed to make sure this Lutheran tract at the cemetery is mowed and trimmed well, anticipating the numerous people who will likely be visiting the graves of their family members and others. Please contact the church office to indicate your willingness to help.

BRILLE WORK CENTER IN NEED OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Work Center #31, Lutheran Braille & Large Print here at St. John's is in need of the congregation's help. This very worthwhile project is now over \$900 in the red because we now have to pay for all our supplies—from paper for all our Spanish Bible books, shipping cartons, tape, to spirals and covers, actually everything except

postage, which thankfully is still free for the Blind and sight impaired. **Please help us by using the bulletin insert or door offering on Lutheran Braille Sunday, May 3.** We are blessed with such an enthusiastic group of volunteers eager to bring The Good News of Jesus Christ to the blind and sight impaired in Spanish to Spanish speaking countries and America. Also, we are in need of packing materials such as grocery bags, empty paper towel rolls, empty toilet paper rolls and egg cartons. There will be a designated box in the breezeway for your use. Thank you.

TOPEKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Part time music teacher needed: Topeka Lutheran School will have a need for a part time music teacher for the 2015-2016 school-year. To receive a job description and further information, please contact Chris Francik, Topeka Lutheran School principal, at 785-357-0382 or Francik@topekalutheran.org

Topeka Lutheran School Constitution Change: The Topeka Lutheran School Board of Directors is proposing a change to the Lutheran School Association Constitution. Written notification of a proposed change must be presented to the association congregations. This change focuses on the number of individuals required for a quorum. The proposed change follows: “A quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be a simple majority of the board currently seated as of the time of the meeting provided that each congregation be represented.” If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact one of your congregation’s Topeka Lutheran School Board of Directors members.

Spring Fling: Topeka Lutheran School students will be presenting their spring concert on Thursday, May 7 beginning at 6:45 in the Topeka Lutheran School gym. Please come out and listen to TLS students share their gifts and talents.

LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

May is a good month to remember and honor those men and women who have faithfully served our country as military members and chaplains. Sunday, May 18 is Armed Forces Sunday, and Memorial Day Sunday is May 25. More information on LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces can be obtained by visiting the following website: www.lcms.org/armedforcesunday. You can also see a listing of current and former members of the armed forces who are St. John’s members posted on the bulletin board.

2015 FLOWER CALENDAR

The following services are available in the next few months if you would like to provide flowers for any of them: May 10 & 31 June 21 & 28 July 26 August 2, 23 & 30

Just sign your name and phone number on the date of your choice on the Flower Calendar posted outside of the church office. The office staff will call to remind you.

THE THEME FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: “TE DEUM”
AN EXCITING AND QUALITY VBS CURRICULUM FROM HIGHER THINGS
Save The Dates: July 20 - 24, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

In addition to the children, we invite adult and teen volunteers for these positions:

Preschool teacher/helpers
Elementary Teachers/helpers
Leaders
Decorators

Registration Personnel
Craft coordinator/helpers
Actors

Snack preparers
Recreation

We are looking forward to a good time at VBS this year. Each day the children will learn portions of The Lord's Prayer and hear Bible stories that correspond to The Lord's Prayer. The stories will be presented in drama form, which is why we need actors for each day. We will also need props and costumes to represent the various characters. Those needs are listed below. Please consider your God-given gifts and pray that the Lord would lead you to assist the children and the church in this endeavor. Call the church office at 354-7132, or speak to Deaconess Linda, or email kinnett@stjlcms.org.

Here is a list of items we would like to borrow if you have any of them and care to lend them to us.

Shoes of all kinds: Sport shoes (golf, baseball, soccer, etc.); Beach shoes (flip flops); Ballet slippers; School shoes; Hunting boots; Hiking boots; Penny loafers; Bedroom slippers; Mario slippers (or something to represent video games). A Captain's hat; A flight attendant hat or jacket; Something to represent a customs agent.

SHORT TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

St. John's has the opportunity to be a "site" for the Summer Meal Program from June 1 through July 10. At no cost to us, the USDA will provide meals for children ages 1 through 18 at our facilities. We may choose to serve breakfast, a snack, or lunch on the weekdays during the six weeks. All we need to do is to provide the building, supervise the children, and complete some simple paperwork. They provide the meals ready to serve and even send someone to serve them.

Volunteers will be needed who will choose a day of the week to help for six weeks, or will choose a certain week, Monday through Friday, or a single day. We have the option of providing some sort of program to go along with the meal. It could be a VBS type program, basketball, games, or anything we choose, although a program is not required. If we choose to serve breakfast, the time can be any time after 7:30 a.m., even as late as 9:00 or 9:30. It is up to us. The Bridge, which is located just around the corner from St. John's at 1023 SW 8th Street, will be serving lunch, so it might be beneficial for the children to get breakfast here.

If you think this is something you might do, please contact Deaconess Linda as soon as possible so we will know if this is a viable option for St. John's. kinnett@stjlcms.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR MAY 2015

May 3:	<i>Paul and Timothy</i>	<i>Acts 15:1-16:5</i>
May 10:	<i>Lydia</i>	<i>Acts 16:11-15</i>
May 17:	<i>Paul and Silas in Prison</i>	<i>Acts 16:16-40</i>
May 24:	<i>Paul Sails for Rome</i>	<i>Acts 27</i>
May 31:	<i>John's Vision of Heaven</i>	<i>Revelation 21-22</i>

YOUNGER CHILDREN

BIBLE WORDS FOR MAY:

[God] desires all people to be saved. 1 Timothy 2:4

CHILDREN IN GRADES 2 THROUGH 5

BIBLE WORDS FOR MAY:

May 3: *We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.* Acts 15:11

May 10: *How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?* Romans 10:14

May 17: *[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy 2:4

May 24: *I will wait for the Lord . . . I will hope in Him.* Isaiah 8:17

May 31: *Behold, I am making all things new.* Revelation 21:5

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7). Parents, this command from God’s Word is for you, and the Sunday school is here to support you in the nurture of your children’s spiritual growth. Please accept God’s invitation to bless your children through the Sunday school and worship service each week.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The Board of Christian Stewardship has started including stewardship messages periodically in the Notes and News pages of the Sunday bulletin and in the monthly Newsletter. We often just think of stewardship each year when we think of our annual pledge. The Board of Stewardship intends to highlight how God’s Word teaches stewardship throughout the church year, always exhorting us to share God’s gifts to us through our God-pleasing use of our time, talents and treasures.

1 Peter 4:10 *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* The grace, the gifts, the blessings: they are all from God. We are to use them as stewards, not as owners. That means we should seek to use them in the way the Owner wants them used. So we listen to His Word, pray for His Wisdom, and receive His grace.



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

[Jesus said] “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19–20a

So that we may obtain faith in Christ, God instituted the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments. Through the gospel and sacraments, as through means, God gives the Holy Spirit who produces faith, where and when He wills, in those who hear the gospel. The Augsburg Confession, Article 5