



St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Conducting Services at:

Holiday Inn Express
3400 Parkwood Blvd
Frisco, Texas 75034

Mailing Address:

St. John Lutheran Church
4760 Preston Rd, Ste. 244-222
Frisco, TX 75034

www.stjohnfrisco.org

972-802-0444 (pastor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday Divine Service & 10:45 Bible Study

September 2017 A.D.

Weekly Email Blasts and Monthly Newsletter

You may have I have noticed in my weekly email blasts that I try to include a longer article that I have written at least once a month. I have decided to make this pattern more formal and call it our monthly newsletter, which will function like traditional church newsletter with a cover article and other information. I will continue to send out the weekly email blasts too.

I ask any officers of the congregation, boards, or groups and societies that would like to submit something for the monthly newsletter to email it to me by the 20th of the prior month. The newsletter will also be posted on our website, which also contains the current events and the church calendar.

I hope this small change proves helpful,

Pastor

What is Considered Mentally Ill in Our Crazy Society Today?

I don't know if this is boldly speaking the truth in love or failing to heed [Proverbs 26:4](#), "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself."

If a 'trans-species' man claimed he was a female monkey, would we consider him mentally ill? Would we show him pity and try to get him the mental and spiritual help he needs, or would we encourage him to embrace his self-understanding? Would we celebrate his 'courage' and make him the animal of the year? Would we insist that our government force all public restrooms to accommodate him and his 'husband', which is an actual male monkey? Who are we to judge and stop a 'trans-species' man who wants to live in a loving and committed relationship with a monkey? Would we force our children to use bathroom and locker rooms with wild animals? Better yet, why should we be forced to use the bathroom in private at all; we should be free to use any tree, parking lot, or courtroom floor if we self-identify as a wild animal? Again, what is considered mentally ill in our crazy society today?

It seems to me that the only ones in our society that are deemed mentally ill, in need of their minds being changed, are Christians and those who uphold natural law. In our crazy world, you couldn't be more insane to say that a monkey is a monkey, a man a man, and a

woman a woman. You couldn't be crazier than to think there is a true God Who made animals according to kinds and that mankind is uniquely different. You couldn't be more 'hateful' than to point out that our crazy laws better protect baby monkeys in the womb than baby boys and girls. Even though there is no scientific evidence for macroevolution—a fish to a monkey to a man—you are wise to confess this 'fact'. Yet, if you confess that monkeys and men are not interchangeable, you're the backwards thinker that is hindering progress.

What is considered mentally ill in our crazy society today, and what insanity does tomorrow hold? I hope, as a society, we rethink our definitions so that we can show true compassion to mentally and spiritually ill men and women, and protect our children and society from this foolishness. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Article Written by the Rev. Clint Stark of St. John Lutheran in Frisco, Texas, who self-identifies as The President of the United States.¹

Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by Bible Study!

Christian Education & Evangelism – Sunday and All Week

Other Bible class opportunities 1. I would like to continue to have our **Wednesday 10:00 a.m. midweek Bible study**, going through a book of the Bible. If you are interested in the class, please let me know. The first class will be 9/20 here at the Holiday Inn Express. 2. I am starting a monthly **Men's study over an early breakfast**. It will be the third Thursday of each month at Jimmy's Egg (121 and Ohio), reading through our Lutheran Confessions. The first study will be 9/21. Let me know if you are interested or have suggestions. Please mark your calendars; more information to come. 3. **A Women's group and Bible study**. There is interest in having a women's quilting group that would include me teaching and a time for fellowship. Please let me know if you are interested and let's get a day/time/location nailed down for September.

Youth Catechesis leading toward confirmation and communicant membership will begin Wednesday 9/13 from 6-7:30 p.m. (Location TBD) If you have a child, usually around 5th grade, who might be ready to begin this class with pastor, please speak with him. There will be a parent and catechumen information meeting next Sunday (9/10) from 11:45-12:15 to distribute materials and answer any questions.

Adult Catechesis, Sunday School and Sunday Morning Bible class: On 9/10 we will begin Sunday school for the young children and a new adult class from 10:45-11:45. The adult class will be going through the major teachings of the Bible, using the *Small Catechism*. This class is for all members and visitors, including those who are interested in learning more about Lutheranism and our church. For unconfirmed & non-members, this class could lead toward confirmation and membership, if you should so decide. This is going to be a great class! I hope everyone participates; invite your friends and family. Let's study and learn the awesome message of Scripture again and again, and invite others to also. (This class will also serve as the foundation, as we transition into a class on Lutheran Worship, which I know many are looking forward to.)

"Martin Luther, The Idea that Changed the World" movie on PBS, 9/12 @ 7.00 p.m.

¹ <http://steadfastlutherans.org/2017/07/what-is-considered-mentally-ill-in-our-crazy-society-today/>

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app. You can **listen to Lutheran music** at www.lutheranpublicradio.org

Children's Bulletins Available: *Lessons for Lambs* is not meant to serve as a way to keep kids busy and quiet during the service, but rather to involve them in what's going on in the service so they can begin thinking about it. The bulletins are geared toward kids in 2nd through 6th grades with varying degrees of independence. They could certainly be used with younger kids, in part, with help from their parents.

Got questions? Check out the rotating tracts/pamphlets on the table in the narthex each week by former LCMS President Berry. Take one for yourself or a friend. Doctrinal questions are timeless! You may also download them for free here: <https://www.michigandistrict.org/about/beliefs/whatabout>

Home Devotional Resources: <http://mlchouston.org/about-us/memorial-moment> & <http://steadfastlutherans.org/2017/02/lambs-at-pasture-daily-devotions-for-the-family/>

Sermons on our website: If you miss a sermon, you can always hear it on our website. This is also a great way to reach out to family and friends: "Hey, check out my pastor's sermon. I think you would appreciate it. It comforted me." Then it might make it easier to invite them to come to church with you in the future.

Getting our name Out: Website: Sharing our website with others is a great way to let others to learn about us. Also, you will find good resources like the Sunday sermons. www.stjohnfrisco.org **Church Business Cards** available for you to take. Let's get our name out there and invite others to hear the sweet Gospel! **St. John t-shirts:** If you would like to order a t-shirt to advertise our church, please contact Tony Folkmann. I was wearing my shirt on my day off while my car was in the shop, and man started a conversation with me about my shirt. I had a nice conversation with him, invited him to church, and gave him a business card. -pastor

Service opportunities: Helping to plan activities outside and inside of our congregation: Would you like to help plan outreach opportunities for our congregation—from service events to simply participating in community events? Would you like to help plan and organize fellowship opportunities for our congregation—anything from potlucks to polka? If you have an interest in serving, please speak with an elder.

Thank you to all (around 20+) who planned, helped and participated in our first annual *Vacation Bible School*. Through lessons, crafts, snacks, worship, and song, our children learned from the Bible how they are God's own child through His gift of Holy Baptism. Those here today will be singing during the closing hymn. To God be the Glory!

Thank you to all who will participate in **Everyone His Witness** workshop on Sept 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano.

Christian Stewardship -Time, Talent, and Treasure

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – Newsletter Article – September 2017

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl. 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil—those who live contrary to God’s will—and to reward those who do good—those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will. Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are to support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence, our prayers, and on our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, for your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

Weekly Stewardship bulletin sentences from synod our in our bulletin most weeks—check them out.

Amazon Smile: Don’t forget you can support our church by designating St. John through *Amazon Smile*.

Prayer: Please continue to pray for our congregation as we establish ourselves and plan our next steps. Also, please take home your bulletin and pray during the week for those who have requested our prayers.

Other News

New Location Exploration: You may have noticed our church family is growing! The Church Council and Board of Elder's are exploring options for us to ensure we have adequate room to meet and worship. If you have any ideas, please pass them along.

House Blessing: The congregation is invited to John and Mary Junker's new home for a blessing and lunch after Bible class, Sunday, 9/10. 3013 Aberdeen Dr., The Colony, TX 75056

St. John Shooting Club (SJSC): Thank you to all who planned and participated in our August outing. If you'd like to join the mailing list for details, please contact Mike Troncalli, 214-274-5215 (voice or text), vicepresident@sjlcfrisco.com.

Next Shoot: "Lutheran Showdown" SJSC vs. Immanuel LCMS of Fairview

Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship and friendly competition, Sunday, September 17, at 3pm at Mission 160 Range in Whitewright. The afternoon will begin with a safety briefing, followed by free time to warm up, and then a course of Steel Challenge stages. Prizes will be awarded for the overall winner and the winning team.

Bring \$30 per person to cover range fees, and provide water and prizes. Excess funds will be donated to the winning team's church. Each participant must sign a waiver prior to being allowed to shoot. Participants under 18 must have a parent/guardian present.

Teams limited to 12 participants each. If you have one, bring an outside-the-waistband holster and a reliable 9mm (or larger) caliber handgun and 3 or more magazines. Revolvers are not recommended, as each stage involves five targets. Please bring ammunition to share. Mission 160 is a private range located at 6040 Highway 160 in Whitewright. Thank you, Lloyd Bailey armedlutheran@gmail.com 469-919-9285 <http://www.armedlutheran.us/>

Faith Lutheran School of Plano will host its sixth annual fundraising golf tournament on Friday, October 6 at Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club. The event will be played in a scramble format and has an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Player spots (early bird price: after \$115/each or \$460/team, after August 31: \$125/each or \$500/team) and sponsorship opportunities (various levels) are available. Player registration forms and sponsorship forms available at www.flspiano.org For more information, please contact Amy Crawford [214.728.0273](tel:214.728.0273) or acrawford@flspiano.org