



St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**6960 Parkwood Blvd
Suite 200
Frisco, Texas 75034**

www.stjohnfrisco.org

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

August 2018 A.D.

Why? Because I Said So

The Duties of Parents and Children
Continuation of the *Table of Duties*¹

For Parents. Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. [Eph. 6:4](#).

God works through means. For example, our Father in heaven provides us our bodies, food, clothing, shelter, etc. - but He does this through the means of parents and other authorities. Parents are to care for, discipline, and teach the faith to their children, while not provoking them to wrath. This is God's will. He wants all parents to teach their children His Word – The 10 Commandments, The Gospel, etc. If you look at our catechism, each chief part begins with these words, “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” Parents teach and pass on the faith, and this happens in the home. It is through the means of parents that God cares for, disciplines, and catechizes (instructs) His children.

For Children. Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. [Eph. 6:1-3](#).

We, children, *should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.* Parents are God given authorities. As we have seen above, parents provide so much for children. Children should ponder just how much God has given them through their parents. This should result in a grateful heart that is willing to honor, love, serve, and obey. If a child disobeys a parent, he or she really disobeys God. Unless a parent commands a child to sin, a child should always obey the parent. Why? Because, God lovingly says so. We all have seen the child who refuses to obey his parents. He leaves the home and refuses to obey other authorities in the world and maybe ends up in jail, in trouble, or doesn't live long on the earth. In reality, he is refusing to listen to and obey God. Therefore, it is so important that parents discipline their children and that children obey their parents because this has both temporal and eternal consequences.

As we continue to study the *Table of Duties*, we are reminded that these are God given. God places us in different vocations (callings), e.g. parent, child, worker, etc. - and wants us to do certain things. Keep in mind that whenever God tells us to do something – that is Law and not Gospel. The Law of God does three things: 1.

¹ <http://www.bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php#tableofduties>

It serves as a *curb* to keep order in the world. A world without Law would be chaos. 2. It serves as a *mirror* to show us what we should do to get to heaven, but don't do. Therefore, it reflects that we are sinners and shows us that we can do nothing to save ourselves. This is the primary purpose of the Law. This makes way for the Gospel of Jesus Christ – salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, apart from the deeds of the Law. 3. It serves as a *guide* for our lives. What is God's will for us? Obey the Commandments – love God and love your neighbor, not out of guilt and fear, but from love of God, having been set free.

We must never think God's Law a harmful thing for us. God's 10 Commandments are meant for our good, not to harm us. The Law is only harmful if we misuse It and deceive ourselves into thinking we can work our way into heaven.

Parents, if you are thinking that you haven't cared for, disciplined, or catechized your children as you should – you are right. Children, if the 4th Commandment has shown you that you have failed to honor, serve, obey, and hold your parents in love and esteem as God commands – you see clearly. Parents and children alike (which includes the whole world) are sinners. Thanks be to God the Father that He sent His Son to take our place and live a sinless life under the demands of the Law. Thanks be to Jesus that He willingly kept the 4th Commandment for us and then went to the cross to pay for our breaking It.

Luke 2:51-52 ESV And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

John 1:26 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Since we are freed from the burden of the Law through Christ, we are free to love the Law and obey It because God lovingly says so.

A forgiven Child of God,
Pastor

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

**Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by Bible Study and
Sunday School (resuming September 2nd) at 10:45!**

**Don't forget to check the Church Calendar on the website for up to
date activities and times.**

Christian Education, Human Care & Evangelism

Thank you to the anonymous donor who gave us \$500 for the purchase of our eternal candle and processional crucifix, which we should soon. **The eternal candle symbolizes God's eternal presence with us. The processional cross symbolizes Jesus' sacramental presence to forgive sin and strengthen faith in Word and Sacraments.**

Sunday Adult Bible Class on Worship and Liturgy, like the liturgy, is still going strong. However, the class won't go for more than 2,000 years!

We welcomed into membership last month, Walter and Marilyn Frese, Dan and Sue Walters, and Bill Wissman by *Affirmation of Faith*. Welcome to SJLC!

Youth Catechesis leading toward confirmation and communicant membership will **resume Wednesday, September 5th, 6-7:30 p.m.** **Parents' Orientation will be Sunday, August 19 at 11:45 a.m.** If you have a child who is ready to start the class (around 5th grade) please speak with Pastor.

Sunday School resumes September 2nd. We will also install teachers that day. Teachers' meeting, August 26th at 11:45 a.m.

Ladies' Study, Thursday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m. We are still trying to get this group going. Come and let's discuss the scope and direction of this group. Do you want to meet at night or early in the morning like the men? Want a book club, Bible study, or activity—or a combination?

Men's Study resumes Wednesday, August 22nd at 6:30 a.m.

Adult Catechesis: If you know someone who would like to learn more about what we as Lutherans believe, please have them contact Pastor.

Private Confession and Absolution offered all-week upon request.

For Information on Closed Communion, check out the brochure at church or see our website. You may always talk to me too. <http://stjohnfrisco.org/holy-communion/> & <http://stjohnfrisco.org/why-closed-communion/>

Summer Evening Galatians Bible Study Wednesday at 7 p.m. Check church calendar, as we will not meet some weeks due to conventions and vacations. The time will change in September after the summer schedule.

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? What About Series: <https://www.michigandistrict.org/about/beliefs/whatabout>

Home Devotions Resources: Reminder that there are resources on the table in the Narthex. The “Lesson for Lambs” and “Lambs at Pasture” are great resources to use in the home during the week. There is even an answer guide. Also, additional resources are on our website. **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.

Evangelism: Sharing our website with others is a great way to let others to learn about us. **Church Business Cards** still available for you to take. Let’s get our name out there and invite others to hear the sweet Gospel! **Evangelism Tracts using the Small Catechism AVAILABLE! Also, tracts on the Explanation of the Church Service available now too!**

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.

Thanks for supporting this great local organization!



Bring your donations to Church or drop them off directly to the food pantry, located at 9085 Dogwood (next to Frisco Resale) which is open Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Wed. from 9-6 p.m. Click [HERE](#) to see a list of the most needed items to help those in need here in our community.

Christian Stewardship -Time, Talent, and Treasure

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

Thank you to the donor who is paying for an advertisement in a local community magazine.

Thank you to Nancy and Angela Keese for a generous donation to our building fund. Here is a note from them in Florida: "Hello to everyone. We miss our St. John family so much. I don't think we will find another church family we love as much as St. John. We will finally be able to move into our apartment on June 25th. Worth the wait. Love and blessing to all.

Nancy and Angela Keese"

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 for using our new building. Also, please take home your bulletin and pray during the week for those who have requested our prayers.
Interested in serving as a Church Greeter? Please speak to an elder.

HELP NEEDED! With our new location we are looking for a few good men to serve as **Trustees**. Help us take care of our new facility and plan for the future. **Additionally, we are looking for a Financial Secretary**. If you can help serve, talk to any Council Member or Elder.

Human Care Group: Want to be available to make a meal, give a ride, and such, to a fellow member in a time of need? Speak with an elder to sign-up to be on our human care group list.

Building Fund: If you would like to contribute to the fund, please write, "Building Fund" on your check/envelope along with the amount. **We thank Zion West LCMS of Omaha for a generous 30K donation.**

Under Construction Help: Looking for experienced and those willing to learn to help with remodeling and construction. To save money we have decided to do the remodel ourselves, as you can already see. Carpenters, sheetrock, painting, commercial electrical help needed. Having your own tools would be helpful. Please contact any elders or board members. Your help will be most welcome and appreciated. Please provide us with a good contact email for information and schedule. More information to follow as we coordinate the project.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

August 2018 Newsletter Article

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3).

And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the Gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us.

We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Gal. 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands. So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy – in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us.

For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

What should I be doing as a steward of the gifts the Lord has given me? Our *Small Catechism*, from Scripture, shows us our duties in our God-given vocations. Each month, I plan to cycle through parts of the *Table of Duties*:

Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Parents

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. **Eph. 6:4**

Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." **Eph. 6:1-3**

Other News

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED US GET TO OUR NEW LOCATION! Time, talent, and treasure! (That really includes everyone in one way or another) The remodel is looking great. Visit our website or Facebook page for pictures!

For current events, please visit our website or see the church calendar. You can sync our calendar to your computer or smart phone. <http://stjohnfrisco.org/st-john-church-calendar/> & <http://stjohnfrisco.org/category/events/>

St. John Shooting Club (SJSC): If you'd like to join the mailing list for details, please contact Mike Troncalli, 214-274-5215 (voice or text), president@sjlcfisco.com.

We thank *The Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund* for its continued support in 2018. We received a generous gift of 25K. Praise the Lord!

Connecting the Dots: Before service, try reading through the Gospel lesson and see if you can link it to the other lessons, Introit, Gradual, and Collect. (Hint: Start with the Collect as it usually summarizes the theme of the day)

Other Articles/Resources

Good Articles on Lutheran Outreach

“Be at Leisure: A Lutheran Approach to Outreach”

1. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/06/be-at-leisure-a-lutheran-approach-to-outreach-1-motives/>
2. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/be-at-leisure-a-lutheran-approach-to-outreach-2-faithfulness/>
3. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/be-at-leisure-a-lutheran-approach-to-outreach-3-beauty/>
4. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/be-at-leisure-a-lutheran-approach-to-outreach-4-hospitality/>

Good Articles on Closed Communion

“The Strangeness of Open Communion”

1. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/the-strangeness-of-open-communion/>
2. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/open-communion-strange-to-god/>
3. <https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/07/open-communion-strange-to-the-church/>

To God be the Glory!