



# St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

6960 Parkwood Blvd  
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Frisco, Texas 75034

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

October 2018 A.D.

## ***“The Table of Duties”*** **Conclusion of Our Review**

We began in our newsletter months a review of, *“The Table of Duties.”* We conclude our review by looking at the duties for the young, widows, and all Christians. As you read through the final duties below, I encourage you to remember the context that we established in the first newsletter article – that is - good works don’t save – Jesus’ good works, death, and resurrection given to us by grace alone through faith alone do. God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does. These serve as a guide for good works in the Christian life, but are not steps that make us Christians. Furthermore, we really must give God the credit, not only for our salvation by faith alone, but for our good works too that spring from the fountain of faith. As God via St. Paul says in Ephesians 2, **8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (ESV).** With that said, I leave you to learn and enjoy the conclusion of, *“The Table of Duties.”*

***For Young Persons in General:*** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time. **1 Pet. 5:5-6.**

***For Widows:*** She that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. **1 Tim. 5:5-6.**

***For All in Common:*** Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Herein are comprehended all the commandments. **Rom. 13:8ff** And persevere in prayer for all men. **1 Tim. 2:1-2.**

*Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.1*

In Christ, 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/>

<sup>1</sup> *Table of Duties* from <http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php#tableofduties>

## **Sunday Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by Bible Study and Sunday School 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**

**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!**

**Youth Catechesis** going strong, Wednesdays 6:45p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Sunday School is back in session. Thank you to all our teachers.**

**Friday 11 a.m. Bible study on the upcoming Sunday theme. Join anytime.**

**Ladies' Study, Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** went well. Here is a summary email I sent to the group:

Greetings Ladies' Group!

What a great turnout and meeting last night. I pray that it was edifying and encouraging for you. Here are a few summary notes from the meeting for those unable to attend:

It was decided to be keep the group casual, meaning, no formal elected positions, meeting minutes, etc. However, Carolyn Phillips did volunteer to be the contact person and communicator for and to the group. Thank you, Carolyn.

The group would like to meet for 1.5 hours once a month with this flexible agenda:

1. Opening worship/devotion in sanctuary with pastor (5-10 min)
2. Book club discussion around a table lead by pastor for about 45 min: Basically, we will read for a month and then discuss it just like a book club. The first book will be, "The Hammer of God" by Bo Giertz, which you can order here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Hammer-God-Bo-Giertz/dp/080665130X>

The assigned reading to discuss for the October meeting is the preface and all of **Part I. The Hammer of God** (about 100 pages). However, if this sounds like too much or you won't have time to read, still come anyway and enjoy the discussion.

3. Service Projects in the Church and Community: This will be discussed and decided by the group. Some ideas that emerged last night were:

- Frisco Family Services. The group plans to bring needed items (posted on their website) to each meeting for Frisco Family Services. (I assume this type of information will be communicated by Carolyn.)

[http://friscofamilyservices.org/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/donate/donate.html](http://friscofamilyservices.org/what_you_can_do/donate/donate.html)

Other ideas: Lutherans for Life, helping pregnant mothers, children's hospitals, sewing items for cancer patients, etc. (If I forgot your idea from last night, my apologies.)

4. Closing Prayer/devotion in sanctuary with pastor

What a blessing to have this group up and running. I'm passing the email communication baton, so to speak, to Carolyn, but am here to help you all however I can. Also, Carolyn, there are a few more email addresses above to add to the list than what was on the sign-up sheet.

In Christ,

Pastor

**Men's Wednesday Study now at 6:00 a.m. Join anytime.**

**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/>

**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](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app. You can **listen to Lutheran music** at [www.lutheranpublicradio.org](http://www.lutheranpublicradio.org)

**Issues, etc. Conference at Faith, Plano, November 9-10<sup>th</sup>**

This a great conference that you would appreciate and benefit from. You can register online and see more information here: <http://issuesetc.org/2018conference/> (Paper registration forms in the narthex.) Childcare is provided. If you register, please sign-up in the narthex so we can coordinate transportation and see who is attending. Also, if at least 5 from our congregation register to go, my wife and I get to attend for free. Pastor

More about the Conference:

Do you have questions about topics like Transgenderism, Infant Baptism, Religious Liberty, Revisionist History, Evidence for the Resurrection and Western Civilization? You'll find answers at the **Fall 2018 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference** Friday, November 9 and Saturday, November 10 at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano.

**"Making the Case"** features expert speakers: Dr. Anthony Esolen, author of *Out of the Ashes*, Dr. Mark Kalthoff of Hillsdale College, Dr. Ryan Anderson of The Heritage Foundation, Dr. Beverly Yahnke of Doxology, Dr. John Warwick Montgomery of 1517: The Legacy Project and Rev. Chris Rosebrough of *Fighting for the Faith*.

**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! Thank you Dan and Sue Walters for coordinating and advertising this in our congregation.**



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.**

**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.

### **LCMS Stewardship Ministry**

#### **October 2018 Newsletter Article**

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

**"Give us this day our daily bread."** *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* 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."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

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**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 Workers of All Kinds**

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. **Eph. 6:5–8**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Employers and Supervisors**

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. **Eph. 6:9**

## **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](mailto: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)

**Ordering More Hymnals:** We are in the process of ordering more hymnals for our services. If you would like to purchase a hymnal in memory or honor of someone, which would be noted on the inside cover, please speak with an elder or email [elder@sjlcfisco.com](mailto:elder@sjlcfisco.com)

**Chuck Tontz** is looking for a local room to rent for 6-12 months before moving to WI. If you know of anything, please let him know.

## **Other Articles/Resources**

<https://steadfastlutherans.org/2018/09/how-was-your-sunday/>

<http://blog.trinityaustin.com/2018/05/07/the-eww-factor-isnt-it/#more-1374>

*To God be the Glory!*