



# 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.

## “You’ve Got Work to Do”

*The Duties of Employees and Employers*  
Continuation of the *Table of Duties*<sup>1</sup>

**For Employees:** *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. [Eph. 6:5ff](#); [Col. 3:22](#).*

**For Employers:** *Ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him. [Eph. 6:9](#); [Col. 4:1](#).*

As we continue to work through the *Table of Duties*, we move to the employee and employer relationship and corresponding duties. The Scriptures quoted above speak for themselves and are clear, but I’ll try to add a little commentary, as well as some tangential points that are less apparent.

Remember, we are all ambassadors of Christ when we go out into the anti-Christian world. Granted, your vocation as an employee or employer is to do a specific duty pertinent to the job description, and that duty doesn’t include preaching the Gospel publicly at work as an employee or employer (you’d likely get fired). You need not feel guilty that you don’t go to work with the purpose of peaching the Gospel, even though some churches do try to guilt their members into thinking this is their duty. Of course, you should speak the Gospel as you have opportunity and is appropriate, which could simply be inviting a coworker to church while chatting after hours at happy hour. You go to work to do the work agreed upon. In fact, if you used the company copier to print Christians tracts to distribute during the work day, you’d be in the wrong. You are there to do your job, not to preach, and this is God pleasing. Take comfort in your work and see it as God does. By faith, your work is a good work in the eyes of God, even if it seems quite mundane. When you obey your boss at work you obey Christ. When you serve your neighbor, you serve Christ.

But, there are things that you can do as ambassadors of Christ on the clock to bring honor to the name of your Father in heaven. For example, work hard and don’t be lazy. Laziness is akin to stealing (7<sup>th</sup> Commandment). It reflects poorly on the name Christian if you are known to be lazy. Also, stealing is stealing, so even if everyone does it, doesn’t make it right—be it pens to paper. Stay away from the water cooler gossip.

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

Defend your coworkers, protect reputations and explain things in the kindest way (8<sup>th</sup> Commandment). Stay away from crude joking and the conversations that celebrate the sins of the weekend. You are not like the world. You used to be, but you are baptized and resurrected to live a new life in Christ. If you're the boss, take care of those under you. Be fair and don't squeeze blood from a turnip. If we, as Christians, act no differently than that the dying-rat-race world, it begs the question doesn't it?

Now, that doesn't mean that we won't fail at our duties and sin. We sin daily and daily need forgiveness—and we have it. But there is a difference between sinning in weakness, e.g. “I had an opportunity to defend someone's reputation and failed in weakness” and habitually being the one who impenitently stirs the pot. There is a difference between light and darkness and you are children of the Light. I conclude with a portion of Ephesians 5 that summarizes nicely the above points:

**[Eph 5:1-21 ESV] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

In Christ,  
Pastor

**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

**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! Check out the video under "Other Resources" at the end of the newsletter.**

**We welcomed** formally into membership last month, Max, Christiana, Katherine, & Abbey Kiesling.

**Youth Catechesis** leading toward confirmation and communicant membership will **resume Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:45-8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday School resumes September 2nd. We will also install teachers that day.**

**Ladies' Group Sign-up:** If you are interested in starting a ladies' group, please sign-up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. First meeting for the ladies to determine the scope of their group TBD.

**Evening Bible Study Sign-up:** If you are interested in an evening Bible study, please sign-up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

**Midweek midday Bible study resumes Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m.** Please sign-up on the table in the narthex.

**Wednesday Men's Study is changing its start time to 6:15 a.m. starting in September.**

**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)** **There is a conference at Faith, Plano, November 9-10. We should try to attend. Please register through this link: <http://issuesetc.org/2018conference/>**

**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.**

**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

### September 2018 Newsletter Article

It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

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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)

## **Other Articles/Resources**

<https://www.gottesdienst.org/gottesblog/2018/8/29/we-must-judge-fruits-of-repentance>

<https://www.gottesdienst.org/training-video/>

*To God be the Glory!*