



# 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](http://www.stjohnfrisco.org)

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

October 2017 A.D.

## **A Reformation Call: A Resurrection of the Biblical and Lutheran Practice of Private (Individual) Confession & Absolution**

As we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation this month, I thought it fitting to do a little reforming of our own. In fact, there is an expression that the Church is always reforming. As you know, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517, Luther wasn't looking to leave the Roman church, but simply reform some of her errors. Due to sin, the world, and the devil, errors have a way of creeping into church bodies—things done and left undone. So, what might Luther say needs reforming in our LCMS church body today? I could guess that he would have much to say, but I highlight one point that I know he would agree with; a reformation call to resurrect the 5<sup>th</sup> Chief Part of the *Small Catechism*! (Maybe he would have even traveled to St. Lois to nail this to the door of the LCMS Inc. headquarters.)

Sadly, we should confess that most Lutherans in America have dropped the ball when it comes to God's gift of *Private Confession and Absolution*. Many wrongly think that it is a Roman Catholic practice and not a Biblical and catholic (universal or Christian) one. And, there is some truth to that complaint. The way that the Roman Catholic Church does and requires *Private Confession* isn't Biblical. They turn what Jesus gives as a Gospel gift into Law. They *force and insist* that all go to *Confession* verses *urge and encourage* Christians to use this gift. Additionally, they make you enumerate your sins, when Scripture clearly says that is impossible since we sin in ways we are not aware of too. **Ps. 19:12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.** They also assign works to pay for sins—penance--Hail Mary's, etc.—verses the free-gift of *Absolution* (forgiveness). But, just because Romans have perverted God's gift doesn't mean we should forsake It. *Private Confession*, done and offered rightly, is Biblical and Lutheran. And, while most Lutheran pastors and churches have let Biblical *Private Confession* almost reach the point of extinction, we must continue to fight to keep It alive for the sake of the Gospel for us sinners.

Why? Foremost, because it is most certainly true that *Private Confession* is Biblical and genuinely Lutheran. Martin Luther said this about *Private Confession*, "When I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian" (Large Catechism, Brief Exhortation, 32). In fact, as noted above, *Private Confession* is one of the 6 Chief Parts of our *Small Catechism* (Remember, the doctrine of our Catechisms comes from Scripture Alone). As Lutherans we confess this:

***What is confession?*** *Confession has two parts. First that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven. What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts. Which are these? Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son,*

*daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm? (Small Catechism)*

According to Scripture, and therefore confessed in our Lutheran Confessions, *Private Confession* is considered a third Sacrament—right up there with the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar. Can you imagine if we stopped offering and highlighting Jesus' gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion? Lutherans would be shocked and appalled that pastors/churches would deprive people of God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Well, *Private Confession* is no different.

Now, it is true, we don't force anyone go to *Private Confession*, just like we don't force anyone to go to Communion. We offer these salutary gifts of God and encourage Christians to live as Christians and make use of them. *Private Confession* is a gift that Jesus gives to forgive our sins (like in Baptism and Communion) and to comfort our consciences. You get more than getting something off your chest—you get real forgiveness and real sins sent away from you. I encourage you, Christians, to resurrect a common and often use of this Sacrament. It is one of the primary means that our Lord uses to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith (Pastors go to *Private Confession* too).

If you would like to learn or relearn more about this Sacrament, I encourage you to join our Sunday morning Adult Class, open your Bible and Catechism, look at the rite in the hymnal, or speak with me. I have always and will, by God's grace, offer *Private/Individual Confession* to you so you can confess your sins and receive forgiveness as from God Himself.; it's all for the purpose of absolution. You are free to contact me to set up a time to receive this Gospel gift; I'll note this gift in the bulletin each week.

*"If there is a heart that feels its sin and desires consolation, it has here a sure refuge when it hears in God's Word that through a man God looses and absolves him from his sins" – Martin Luther (Large Catechism, Brief Exhortation, 14).*

In Christ,  
Pastor

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

### **Christian Education, Human Care & Evangelism**

**Sunday School:** We now have Sunday school in the conference room after service for the little ones. Older children are welcome to attend the Family Style Bible Study.

**Other Weekly or Monthly Bible study opportunities or ideas: I need your feedback.** As a Called teacher of God's Word, I am always interested in teaching. If you are interested in me teaching a topic (Evangelism, a book of the Bible, Stewardship, etc.) or a class, let me know. I know a new congregation without a fixed facility, busy schedules, and different stages in life present challenges in trying to get a Bible study going, but let me hear from you so I can try to offer other studies outside of Sunday morning--evenings, mornings, daytime, for men, for women, etc. I want to teach; how can I serve you?

Gents, let's get together **every other Thursday** at 6:30 AM for a **Men's Study and Breakfast at IHOP** (2480 Preston Rd, Frisco, TX 75034). We'll start the day off right with good food and fellowship as we read through our Lutheran Confessions. Dates for the rest of 2017 are 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14, and 12/28! Please mark your calendars and let [Pastor](#) know if you are interested.

**Opportunities to Learn and Celebrate the Reformation:** In addition to the movie on PBS, there is a new book from *Concordia Publishing House* entitled, "The Reformation". <https://www.cph.org/p-31445-the-reformation.aspx> Also, October 24 & 25, Dr. Robert Kolb, Mission Professor of Systematic Theology Emeritus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will be giving the 2017 Parchman Lectures at Truett Seminary, Baylor University in Waco. His three lectures on "What Did Martin Luther Change, and Why?" will be held in Powel Chapel at Truett Seminary October 24 (11a & 7p) and October 25 (11a), and are free and open to the public. <http://www.baylor.edu/truett/index.php?id=927853> Also, Eric Metaxas at Lamb of God Flower Mound Oct 13 will be discussing the impact of Martin Luther and promoting his new book on Martin Luther's life. He will be selling the books and signing them for participants. The event is free and open to the public. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eelhfv2q03e9c35d&llr=edw5ggcab>

**Chanting workshop** at Our Redeemer Dallas October 3, 10:30am-noon. Mr. Tim Shewmaker, Director of Parish Music will give instruction.

**Thank you** to all who participated in **Everyone His Witness** workshop last month at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano.

**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)

**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](http://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.

**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.

**Volunteers needed!** We are looking for volunteers to deliver our donations monthly from St. John to *Frisco Family Services*. If you can help, please let an Elders know. 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.



*We're Lutherans. We're Texans. And we're tough. We're going to put it all together so that it will be just fine to host the conference.*

Dr. Scott Murray of Memorial Lutheran-Houston-TX

Dear Friend of **Issues, Etc.**,

Hurricane Harvey's damage won't effect the **2017 Fall Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference** Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 in Houston, TX.

You can still meet and hear teachings from some or your favorite guests.

**Mark Hemingway** of "The Weekly Standard"  
**Mollie Hemingway** of "Fox News"  
*Making the Case for Religious Liberty*  
*Making the Case for Christians Engaging the News Media*

**Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller** of "Table Talk Radio"  
*Making the Case of Jesus for You*

**Rod Dreher** of "The American Conservative"  
*Making the Case for the Benedict Option*

**Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse** of the Ruth Institute  
*Making the Case against the Sexual Revolution*

**Dr. Scott Murray** of "Law, Life and the Living God"  
*Making the Case for Christian Marriage*

**Conference attendance is limited to 400.** The registration fee is \$120 per person and includes three meals. Child care is free courtesy of the [Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education](#). For more information, [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please send an email to [conference@issuesetc.org](mailto:conference@issuesetc.org).

I hope to see you in Houston on November 10 and 11!

Todd Wilken, host

**Issues, Etc.**  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

# Christian Stewardship -Time, Talent, and Treasure

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – October 2017

We are nearing the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, All Saints' Eve, 1517, when Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. So, let's hear from Luther himself on the topic of giving and stewardship.

In the Small Catechism under the Table of Duties, Martin Luther gives specific Bible passages to help Christians know their duty in their various vocations as members of their family, society at large, and in God's family, the Church. Under the heading "What Hearers Owe Their Pastors," Luther lists five passages from the Bible, three of which have to do with giving to your local congregation. They are these:

"The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14).

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows" (Galatians 6:6–7).

"The elders [presbyters, i.e., pastors] who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages'" (1 Timothy 5:17–18).

Luther comments on these passages in his 1535 Lectures on Galatians. He wrote:

When Paul says "all good things," this is not to be taken to mean that everyone should share all his possessions with his preacher. No, it means that he should provide for him liberally, giving him as much as is needed to support his life in comfort. . . . The apostle is so serious in advocating this topic of support for preachers that he adds a threat to his denunciation and exhortation, saying: "God is not mocked." . . . All this pertains to the topic of support for ministers. I do not like to interpret such passages; for they seem to commend us, as in fact they do. In addition, it gives the appearance of greed if one emphasizes these things diligently to one's hearers. Nevertheless, people should be taught also about this matter, in order that they may know that they owe both respect and support to their preachers. Christ teaches the same thing in Luke 10:7: "Eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages"; and Paul says elsewhere (1 Cor. 9:13–14): "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel." It is important for us who are in the ministry to know this, so that we do not have a bad conscience about accepting for our work wages . . . it happens when those who proclaim the glory of God and faithfully instruct the youth derive their livelihood from them. It is impossible that one man should be devoted to household duties day and night for his support and at the same time pay attention to the study of Sacred Scripture, as the teaching ministry requires. Since God has commanded and instituted this, we should know that we may with a good conscience

enjoy what is provided for the comfortable support of our lives from church properties to enable us to devote ourselves to our office. (LW 27:125–126).

In other words, pastors are not to suffer from low wages just because they are servants of Christ and the Word. They are to share in the livelihoods of all to whom they preach the gospel and instruct in the faith, so that the Word can be proclaimed and the faith carried from one generation to the next.

**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.

**Remember in your prayers those recovering from recent hurricanes. To learn how to volunteer and help, visit: [lcms.org/harvey](https://www.lcms.org/harvey)**

**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:

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers**

The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. **1 Tim. 3:2–4** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **1 Tim. 3:6** He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. **Titus 1:9**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors**

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. **1 Cor. 9:14** Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **Gal. 6:6–7** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.” **1 Tim. 5:17–18** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. **1 Thess. 5:12–13** Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Heb. 13:17**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: Of Civil Government**

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. **Rom. 13:1–4**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: Of Citizens**

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. **Matt. 22:21** It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **Rom. 13:5–7** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior. **1 Tim. 2:1–3** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. **Titus 3:1** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **1 Peter 2:13–14**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Husbands**

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. **1 Peter 3:7** Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. **Col. 3:19**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Wives**

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **Eph. 5:22** They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. **1 Peter 3:5–6**

### **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**

### **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**

### **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Youth**

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. **1 Peter 5:5–6**

## **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Widows**

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. **1 Tim. 5:5–6**

## **Table of Duties Monthly Review: To Everyone**

The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Rom. 13:9** I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. **1Tim. 2:1**

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

## **Other News**

**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/>**

**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. **Voters' Meeting to discuss and approve the 2018 budget** is 10/1 from 11:15 – 11:45. This will affect what next (larger) location we budget for.

**House Blessing:** Thank you to all who planned and attended John and Mary Junker's new home for a blessing and lunch last month.

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

**SJLC t-shirts** have been shipped and should arrive by October 4! If you missed out on the first round of ordering and would like a T-shirt to wear around town just let any elder know. Here we are, come and join us!

**Elections** for church council and boards for 2018 is quickly approaching (see constitution for qualifications and duties). If you have interest in serving, please speak with the congregation president, Mike Troncalli.

**We give thanks to the Lord for enlarging His kingdom through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. In addition to the three baptisms we have had this past year (Benjamin Stark, Drew Hinze and Sophia Johnson) on 10/1** Lucas and Thomas Doerschlag, children of Dustin and Jennifer, are set to be baptized. We welcome to the Doerschlag family to St. John, and give thanks that they found us through our website. Dustin and Jennifer are currently in catechesis with the intention of joining. Please join us on 10/1 as we celebrate this joyous occasion.