



St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

6960 Parkwood Blvd

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Frisco, Texas 75034

<http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/>

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

October 2022 A.D.

Title: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI or DIE)

Subtitle: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE)

[2Tim 3:14-17 ESV] 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Given that we observe Reformation this month, I thought it fitting to defend against the major heresy, false doctrine and erring religion of our day, which is the title above. I understand that this newsletter gets posted like Luther's 95 Theses on our website, which could bring the cancel-culture-mob to our door sooner than later—be not deceived, they are coming. But this religion of the devil must be resisted, mocked, and fought against for the sake of our neighbors' bodies, think the trans-mutilation of children, and more importantly, souls, think eternal damnation of soul and body on the Last Day. And, being hated by the world isn't new for Christ and His Christians; Luther and his fellow reformers had a price on their heads also for speaking the truth to a God-hating world, but they did it anyway, and the Lord's good will was done.¹

*Tho' devils all the world should fill,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
This world's prince may still
He can harm us none,
One little word can fell him.*



*All eager to devour us,
They cannot overpower us.
Scowl fierce as he will,
He's judged; the deed is done;*

The Lutheran Hymnal, 262

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/LH1941/262>

¹ Recall Luther's explanation of, "Thy Will be done", in our catechism: *How is God's will done?* God's will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

Where to begin? For those who don't know what it is or how insane and ridiculous it is, I start by sharing with you an actual SOGIE video used by employers to train their employees, and I can only assume that this or similar videos are used in our schools and universities. Lord, have mercy! But, before you dare click on the link, know that this is real and not satire. And, be very discerning as you watch and listen; you know, "Don't believe everything you read in the newspaper, hear on the radio, and see on TV." This video is full of outright lies and misleading information. Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/-CrjaFBF5dY>

Allow me to point out a few instances of deception and lies:

First, it is stated as 'fact' that 1 in 100 people are intersex at birth. That is 1%, but they sight no proof for this. This study says it is .018% rate. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12476264/> Yet, regardless, God's Word and His creation remain. There are two sexes, male and female. Yes, because of the fall there are deformities. Some are born with less than 10 fingers or toes, but we can still speak that humans have 10 of each. Deformities don't create a third category in addition to male and female.

And, contrary to the video, gender is a synonym for sex, or at the very least should be. Gender is not a state of mind or a feeling. I can feel like a woman or believe I'm Batman, and that doesn't make it true reality. Also, note that they say, "sex assigned at birth". Well, who assigned it? God? Here is an LCMS paper that addresses gender issues. <https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/53E2B773-CD82-4B0D-96F4-D3FB56B17952>

Here is another example of misdirection in the video: Last and least, in their minds, after listing all sorts of sexually perverse behaviors and desires not "existence and states of being", but behaviors and desires--LGBTQ, they say, "And some people identify as straight." Yeah, if we are rounding up, about 100% since the beginning. This is very misleading, as if most are not attracted to the opposite sex. Yet, I do think the percentage of sexual perverts is rising due to the propaganda and grooming of children. See Romans chapter 1. There is a slip sliding away that happens in cultures on the highway to hell.

Final thing to observe in the video, though there are more lies and propaganda that I am not listing: They say something like, "Some science tells us as early as age two gender identity blah, blah." Who did the science? A fifth grader? When someone cites science or a study, ask to read it. Matt Walsh, a Conservative Roman Catholic Podcaster on Culture, reminds us: *"Reminder that the plastic straws hysteria started with a report a few years ago that Americans use 500 million plastic straws a day. This statistic was invented by a nine year old for a school project. It is still cited as fact today."*

<https://twitter.com/mattwalshblog/status/1540011867027947524>

As an aside, I know many of you listen to Matt Walsh, which is fine. He has some good commentary on our culture. Since he is Roman Catholic and off on some theological issues, e.g. evolution, I don't recommend him liberally. Yet, I do recommend watching his documentary, "What is Woman?" Defining male and female isn't simply a theological issue, but it deals with nature and reality [seeing the results of God's 6-day creation]. The sun is the sun and the moon is the moon, even if the sun self-identifies as the moon. I am not going to call the sun the moon just because you believe that to be true. Here is the film:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20256528/> (Maybe someone could organize a watch party with some Lutheran refreshments.)

Wow, I am already at two pages, so I hope you are still reading. I have given you a start above by exposing you to the issue along with a few resources. Due to length, I am going to end it here, but leave you with a great quote, followed by my Good Friday sermon on DIE, and some articles that I wrote years ago (I've shared them before, but we have many new members):

The great quote attributed to Martin Luther, which shows why I am addressing this topic:

“If I profess with loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except that little point which the world and the Devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.”

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/192780-if-i-profess-with-loudest-voice-and-clearest-exposition-every>

My sermon:

Good Friday
April 15, 2022

Pastor Thomas Clinton Stark
St. John. Frisco, TX

To the saints and faithful brothers and sister in Christ at St. John, Frisco, grace to you and peace from God our Father.

You all have heard me say that Jesus was born to die, d-i-e. He rode in to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to die, d-i-e. This was the promise to Adam and Eve and all in all the centuries after—the Savior, the Godman, would d-i-e and rise on the third day. D-I-E is a very popular acronym right now, especially in big companies and universities, and it is a creed of the religion of *wokism*. I’m sure you have heard of being woke, and even many of our Concordia Lutheran Universities have made the news recently for going woke and denying God’s Word. Woke is a Marxist religion and it isn’t compatible with Biblical Christianity and it must be resisted. Their D-I-E creed stands for diversity, inclusion and equity. One thing the devil and world do is take words that sound pretty good, but then load them with evil. Take for instance, “Black Lives Matter.” Who in their right mind would say those are evil words? But, the organization with that innocent sounding name is evil—anti-Christian—anti-traditional families-and Marxist to the core. They have done the same with the words, diversity, inclusion and equity.

Let’s start with diversity. They apply this to race, religions, sex, which they call genders, and sexual behaviors—I say behaviors, even if they don’t—they are what they are. Let’s start with race. We would say, because we reject evolution, that there is one race—the human race, which is unique and different than animals. We all come from Adam and Eve—skin color is generally considered a matter of genetics, tower of Babel and adaptation. Scripture speaks of nations and tongues. Racism isn’t a biblical word. Systemic racism is a made-up term and doesn’t exist. Systems can’t repent of sins, only individuals can. We are not to treat anyone wrongfully no matter what color their skin. We are to love our neighbors, as we are all part of the human race for which Jesus came to die—the good D-I-E. Jesus died for all nations and all peoples. He lived a sinless life for all.

And, in Christ, by faith, we are not diverse, we are the same. We are the one forgiven body of Jesus. **Galatians 3:28** ²⁸ **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** Notice in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, but also neither male nor female. This is talking about faith in Jesus not our lives in this world. God created the human race as male and female. These are created realities and not a state of mind. Male and female are gifts not to be despised. They have different gifts, duties and roles in this life. Wokism seeks to reject and destroy those differences, unless it fits their agenda. You must keep in mind that the post-modern world isn’t logical or consistent. God is God of order—the devil loves chaos. One the one hand they fight for women’s rights, but on the other hand are unwilling to define what a woman is, like our new supreme court justice. It is truly insane. It is a rejection of the creator by rejecting His created distinctions.

But, at least with colors of skin or male and female these are observable states of being, but they are not behaviors. A white man may feel like a black woman, but his feelings don’t altar reality. You are either male or female or say black or white—these are equal in value and are not behaviors. But they equate social justice for these two categories with the LGBTQIA+ agenda. While they can’t define a woman, they also can’t define the

plus, but I digress. This alphabet poison soup deals with sinful behaviors, which isn't apples to apples with the issue of race or sex. These behaviors lead to death, an eternal D-I-E ing. But, these wicked, unnatural and sinful lusts and behaviors are not beyond the scope of Jesus D-I-E ing. He died for all sin and all sinners. He wants all to repent, to turn from their evil ways and to live.

The other tenant of diversity is diversity of religion—think coexist bumper sticker. This diversity is not good, and to say it is, is to make a dogmatic creed, which is anti-Christian. But as diverse as wokism claims to be, what they don't include in their diversity is Biblical Christianity, which moves us to the I—Inclusion.

The inclusion is basically the inclusion of the diversity stuff I just mentioned, but again it doesn't include Biblical Christianity. One of my seminary professors said this about Christianity: It is the most inclusive and exclusive religion in the world. It is inclusive since Jesus died for the whole world. He died for Jews, Gentiles, males and females. He died for alphabet soup sins and all the rest that break the 10 commandments. No one is left out. Jesus came for the whole human race. He lived, died and rose for all. He desires all to hear this—that they are sinners, but have salvation through Him. It is the *through Him* that is exclusive.

All roads don't lead to the same God. There is only salvation in Jesus' name. He is the way not a way. There is no salvation apart from faith in His good Friday death and Good Sunday resurrection for yourself. All other religions lead to hell; Wokism leads to hell. D-I-E leads to hell, which is so ironic. The acronym they chose is die, though some have moved to DEI, and those who hold to it are dead spiritually and will die eternally apart from repentance. It's like choosing the rainbow for a sinful cause, which caused God to flood the earth and kill those prideful sinners. Clearly, no fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom.

Equity isn't the same as equality. Equality can be a fine word—all people, men, women, Jews, Gentiles, in the womb and outside of it are equally valuable as God's creation. There is equality in value, but not equality in responsibilities. Parents are equally as valuable as their children, but they don't have equal authority, duties and responsibilities. They are not interchangeable. But the woke crowd isn't talking about equality of opportunity anymore, but equity. Equal opportunity employment for example meant everyone should have equal opportunity to self-determine the outcome. Equity means they must end in the same result, which fits with the evil Marxist and Communist religion. One works hard and the other doesn't, but they should be paid the same—equity. No, the Bible teaches that if you refuse to work you shouldn't eat. And, private property exists, hence the 7th commandment. There is more to say here, but enough for tonight.

To put a good spin on equity, Jesus wants the same result for all, which is repentance unto eternal life. He died equally for all and wants all to receive and not reject the forgiveness He won on Good Friday and distributes to us individually in His Church through Word and Sacraments. Jesus doesn't want the woke religious zealots with their D-I-E creed going to H-E-L-L. He wants all to hear and believe the S-O-S. Most know what these means, but for those who don't, it is a reference to God's Law and Gospel, which is what ALL need to hear. The Law shows our sin—SOS. The Gospel SOS, shows our savior. All, not matter how diverse your heritage, are included in the fallen and sinful world headed for hell. And all are included in Christ's Good Friday death. And He wants all to believe this unto the equity of heaven. The only remedy and the only way to foil the d-i-e-ing world with its religions—is with the powerful word of the one true God, which chiefly shows us the d-i-e-ing of Jesus for us all. These doctrines coming out of the media, universities and our government are demonic—the devil is the enemy. But, Christ has defeated the devil and wants all rescued from his slavery to sin. One word fells the old evil foe.

Don't bow the knee to the woke idol, but confess Christ. You may die for it, but only temporarily. The only hope for you and for the dying world is the proclamation of a dead and risen Lord. His Word is powerful and doesn't return void. Be bold and unashamed. **Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Amen.**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The articles I wrote:

Firstly, here is a list of articles that are published on the *Brothers of John the Steadfast*, which include homosexuality, trans, and preferred pronouns: <https://steadfastlutherans.org/author/pastorstark/>

Lastly, this an article that I submitted in 2015 to the local newspaper back when I was a pastor in Wisconsin. They published my letter and it is still online here:

https://www.leadertelegram.com/features/religion/go-looking-for-the-truth/article_838ce5b1-74b6-5f66-9308-75f47030bf81.html You can also just read it below.

A Letter to the Editor ***Go Looking for The Truth***

I would like to point out some logical fallacies and hypocritical irony from Ms. Virginia Wolf's September 19th article, "Go looking for a church." Her article can be summed in her sentence, "But the biggest reason [people don't attend church] is the failure to find relevance or meaning in church—a lack of belief in what a church espouses." This is the popular post-modern absolute truth statement that "there is no such thing as absolute truth, but truth is whatever you believe it to be or find to be relevant." I hope you caught the irony!

Ms. Wolf then goes on to say, "First and foremost, we support freedom of belief." She then lists other religions, like Christianity and Islam and says, "...all are welcome who search for truth." Here again, what is truth? She defines truth as, whatever you think is relevant is true. She, for example, didn't tolerate, welcome, or celebrate her American Baptist upbringing, but judged it to be untrue because she found it irrelevant. With this logic, should a serial killer who believes that murder is the true way to go, look for a church community that welcomes and tolerates that truth?" No, believing that serial killing is good, and even finding others who agree with you and find it relevant, doesn't make it true. Even the religions she mentions are not so open minded that their brains fall out.

However, Ms. Wolf's church's doctrine and the doctrines of all the other religions she mentions, save Christianity, do have one thing in common. They all only teach what a person must do. She says, "...we are sure that we are called to help others..." Many churches simply tell you what you need to do. A Christian congregation is unique in that it tells you what the One True God has done for you. Jesus, God's Son, says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one gets to the Father, but by Me." Yes, I know this isn't the popular dogma of "all roads lead to heaven." Yet, the absolute truth is that we are all sinners, from serial killers to pastors, and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Jesus alone, truly loved His neighbor as Himself, and He then died on the cross for all our sins. A truly Christian church is always relevant because it speaks the truth of what we need to hear not what we want to hear or find relevant this week. The absolute truth is that we are sinners, but for the sake of Jesus alone, God declares us righteous. Do Christians love their neighbor and do good works? Yes, but out of thanksgiving to God for His love and grace.

Finally, Jesus also says, "Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing who try to lead you to hell with lies in the name of truth." I doubt Ms. Wolf sees the irony. Instead of looking for a church that will tell you anything you want to hear, why not go looking for THE truth, and attend a church that teaches It. I invite Ms. Wolf to attend my congregation—God wants all to believe the truth. – Pastor T. Clint Stark

Don't forget to check the Church Calendar page on the website for up-to-date activities and times: <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/category/events/>

Note: St. John/Pastor is using the email addresses pastor@sjlcfrisco.com and pastorstark@gmail.com to send information and requests for information to the members. Please check your Spam or Junk mail folders for emails from these addresses.

Christian Education, Human Care & Evangelism

Audio of the [sermon is available on our website](#). **Homebound Communion:** If you are unable to attend the Divine Service, you may always arrange communion with pastor.

Audio of Bible Class: No need to sign-up anymore. I will attach the previous week's recording(s) to the eblast each week. If an eblast doesn't have them attached, assume the recorder failed or I failed in some way 😊

Sunday Bible Class: Adult Catechesis for several weeks before beginning our study of Proverbs.

Ladies Group meets this **month on 10/27 and not 10/20 as previously advertised** at 6:30 p.m. All ladies are welcome! **Ladies' Group Christmas Party Save the Date: Sunday 12/4 at 4:00 p.m.**

Men's Study Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. *The Book of Concord 1580*.

Midweek Bible Study: Mondays, 1:00 p.m. Starting 2 John 10/10.

Sunday School is in full swing.

Youth Catechesis: Sunday's 12 – 1 p.m. to Palm Sunday.

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://www.stjohnfrisco.org/holy-communion/> & <http://www.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 <https://www.issuesetc.org> and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app. You can **listen to Lutheran music** at <https://www.lutheranpublicradio.org>

BIBLE STUDY: The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at <https://www.thewordendures.org>, on your favorite podcast provider, or the LPR mobile app.

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://steadfastlutherans.org/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:** <https://www.mlchouston.org/about-us/memorial-moments> & <http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/2017/02/lambs-at-pasture-daily-devotions-for-the-family/>

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!



Frisco Family Services is now known as Frisco Family Services Market. This rebranding reflects a heartfelt consideration for the health, safety, and respect for our neighbors during an unexpected crisis. Now, Frisco Family Services Market better portrays the experience families and individuals are used to when shopping in a grocery store.

In addition to in person client-choice shopping, they have added **Market Express**, an online shopping alternative for those who are ill, do not feel comfortable with in person shopping, or have limited time to shop due to their work schedule. Similar to retail curbside pickup, their clients access an online shopping list, make their selections and schedule a convenient pickup time. Clients arrive at their scheduled time and volunteers load their chosen items into their vehicle.

For seniors and those who are unable to drive or do not have transportation, their **Mobile Market** provides home delivery. Having these options will ensure the health, safety, and confidentiality of those needing to use Frisco Family Services Market while navigating their crisis.

Additionally, they have added a Fresh produce section for the shoppers, funded by a recent Leadership Frisco class.

As a church, St. John continues its support of Frisco Family Services Market with stable food item donations to their food pantry. A collection basket has been placed at church for your donations. Please consider donating any regular sized canned or boxed goods that are within the expiration date. They also need laundry and cleaning supplies. We will not be able to provide fresh produce through this collection basket. Thank you for helping!

Christian Stewardship -Time, Talent, and Treasure

Nominations for serving as an officer or board member next year: Please talk to our congregation president, Steve Leight, if you are interested. **Voters' Meeting 12/11/22 @ 11 a.m.** to elect officers and 2023 budget.

Choir: Please lend your voice and come sing with us. See church calendar for rehearsal times.

Handchime Choir: On Sunday mornings the Handchime Choir will rehearsal from 8:30 till 9:15 (before Worship Services). If you are interested in ringing, please let me know. Becky Greer, 504-812-7951

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

Church Cleaning: Thank you to all who have served. Always looking for new volunteers. Bill or Denise Eggert if you have questions.

A flower chart for 2022 is posted on the wall by the coffee station. We have updated our **Altar flower sign up** procedure. Flowers will be available for order to be displayed on the Sunday of your choice. The cost is \$30 per vase. We encourage multiple families to sign up together (one for each vase) on the Sunday they would like to commemorate or give thanks in this way. As is needed, the elder board will purchase the second vase and distribute those flowers to our homebound members. Please sign up at least one week in advance, either on the sheet near the bulletin board or by sending your altar flower request to our volunteer church secretary at admin@sjlcfrisco.com or text message to 214-425-9777.

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

“Merchant Rewards Programs: In addition to Amazon Smile, St. John is now set up with Kroger.

1. Apply for a Kroger rewards card, if you don't already have one.
2. Sign in, or create an account with Kroger at <https://www.kroger.com>
3. Go to the Savings & Rewards menu.
4. Select Community Rewards and enter "Saint John Lutheran Church" in the search window, and then search.
5. We should be the first entry in the search results. Our Organization Number is: YV240
6. Select "ENROLL" and hit enter. You're set up.

Prayer: Please continue to pray for our congregation. 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.

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. The **Capital Campaign** handout is in the narthex if you missed it.

Welcoming Committee: If you have an interest in welcoming and contacting first-time visitors with a call, card, or home visit to simply say, “We are glad you came. Hope you come again.”, please contact an elder.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

“We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

<https://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

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: 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**

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

Other News

For current events, please visit our website and see the church calendar. You can sync our calendar to your computer or smartphone. <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/st-john-church-calendar/> Church events are shown at <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/category/events/> Also, if you do Facebook, check out our page.

Also, please see the two bulletin boards by the coffee cart for announcements that aren't always in the bulletin and newsletter. **A list of who is serving is also posted there.**

11th annual Faith Lutheran School golf tournament: join us on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at Heritage Ranch Golf and Country Club! Player spots and sponsorship opportunities (various levels) available. Forms and info available at flsplano.org. Discounted, early registration ends Friday, September 2. All player sign ups and corporate sponsorships due no later than September 16. Contact Amy Crawford with questions: 214.728.0273 or acrawford@flsplano.org

Some Member at Faith Lutheran in Plano are planning a trip to Israel for June 2023. If you are interested, email me (pastor) and I can forward you the information.

We thank The Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund for its continued support. We received a generous gift of 10K, November, 2021. Praise the Lord!

Connecting the Dots: Before the 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)

Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month. Send submissions to pastorstark@gmail.com

Other Articles/Resources

<https://www.lutherclassical.org/podcast/> Check #1-3 out on D E I and the fourth one on Abortion.

<https://www.lcms.org/news/publications>

<https://steadfastlutherans.org/>

<https://nidlcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Protecting-Your-Ministry-PDF-from-LCFS.pdf>

<https://www.lutherclassical.org/>

To God be the Glory!