



St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**6960 Parkwood Blvd
Suite 200**

Frisco, Texas 75034
<http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/>

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

August-September 2023 A.D.

Back to Church Supply List

For many of our teachers and young families it is the back-to-school time of the year. Back to school means back to school supply lists. School supply lists from the teacher tell the student/parent what is needed for the year. I'm going to attempt to do something similar here with my "back to church supply list". As your pastor, here are something items that come to my mind that are *needed* with a few *wants* mixed in. Unlike the 10 Commandments, my list isn't perfect:

1. If you are able, gather often with your Lord and His flock to receive His life-giving Word and Sacraments. This is for your benefit, but your presence also benefits the whole congregation, and your absence is felt. This is more about desire than it is about how many Sundays you are in church. Homebound, illness, and work happens, but if you are able, continue to make this the priority. This really is nothing more than the *Table of Duties* in our catechism and the 3rd Commandment. My duty is to preach and feed; your duty is to hear and receive.
2. Along those lines, I encourage you to be fed in one of our many Bible studies, if you are able. Reading and studying God's Word is life-giving and a lifetime endeavor.
3. Home devotions and prayer. This is something that I have talked a lot about and encourage you to fight the fight. If you have children in the home, set time aside for devotions. If you are married or single, do the same. If you don't know where to begin or need ideas, talk to me. And pray. Among what to pray for, pray for me. Pray for our congregation.

These first three are the most important for all of us—receiving the Lord’s gifts that give forgiveness, life, and salvation. But the faith that is created and sustained through these gifts produces good fruit and works. So, I transition from the kingdom of the right to the kingdom of the left regarding our congregation. There is simply ‘stuff’ that needs to get done. So here is a potpourri of items that come to my mind, which aren’t perfect or exhaustive. You could say this is my condensed commands 4-10 or ‘second table’:

Basically, time, talent and treasure. In addition to supporting our congregation with prayer, pray about supporting in the ways previously mentioned. This is also in the *Table of Duties*. The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Don’t even view it as giving money or time to the church, but to your Lord. As we approach a new year and elections, consider serving officially where needed, if you are able. Consider altar guild, church cleaning, and the like. Refamiliarize yourself with our “Opportunities to Serve” webpage: <https://stjohnfrisco.org/your-church/> Refamiliarize yourself with our Capital Campaign and continued venue search. Church membership and the Christian life aren’t spectator sports. While saving faith is passive and the work of God, that doesn’t mean our life of faith is inactive. While God doesn’t need our works and we are saved apart from them, our neighbor does need them. So, if you are able, continue to look for ways to be of service. And do note the phrase “if you are able”. Those who can serve in many ways are not more valuable than those who are limited. Those who can give more aren’t better than those who don’t have much to give. The church body is made up of many parts—hands, toes, etc. One is no better than the other and all parts are needed. Some will be able to make a meal and others receive the meal. Some will need a ride to church, and others can give it.

So, my final thought is to be receptive to both. Allow others to serve you when you need it—don’t deprive others of opportunities to serve their neighbor because you don’t want to be a burden. Bearing each other’s burdens is a vital part of congregational life. And, unless our Lord returns first, most of us will find ourselves on our death bed needing help with nothing to offer our neighbor and certainly nothing to offer God—before Him we are all beggars no matter our abilities.

I pray you receive my ‘list’ in the way I intend it. It is not intended to twist arms or pile on guilt. It is an invitation and encouragement, in light of the Gospel. The central teaching of Scripture and thus our congregation is that we are declared righteous for the sake of Jesus alone. All the things ‘we do’ in the kingdom of the left in our congregation are in support of the kingdom of the right—that is in support of preaching Christ crucified—the free forgiveness of sin. This is what we all need to hear and desire all to hear who are gathered with us. Only this brings us comfort now and on our death bed. As Jesus said the paralytic lying on the bed—the paralytic carried by and cared for by others—“Take heart, son. Your sins are forgiven.”

In Christ,
Pastor

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@sjlcfisco.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 is wrapping up before beginning our study of Proverbs— September 10th.

Ladies' Group meets September 21st at 6:30 p.m. at church. Starting a study on Apologetics.

Men's Study Wednesday at **10:00 a.m.** *The Book of Concord 1580*. (Resumes September 6th)

Midweek Bible Study: Mondays, **1:00 p.m.** Resumes September 11th. We will continue to make our way through the Pentateuch (first 5 books).

Sunday School resumes September 10th. If you are interested in teaching, please talk with Pastor.

Youth Catechesis: Resumes September 10th. Sunday's 12 – 1 p.m. to Palm Sunday. Youth Confirmation on Palm Sunday. **Parent and student orientation is on September 3rd at 11:45 a.m.**

Higher Things Youth Conference Summer 2024: JULY 16-19, 2024, UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS CLARKSVILLE, AR. Confirmed youth through high school, please save the dates and look for more information in the bulletin and newsletter. More information here: <https://higherthings.org/events/who-am-i-2024/>

College/Young Adult Fellowship: Pastor Taylor at Faith Lutheran Church, along with the Cinquepalmi family, are hosting a fellowship for all college age and young adults from area Lutheran churches. Please join us ***Sunday August 20th*** from "4pm until whenever" at the Seis Lagos Cabana, 224 Seis Lagos Drive in Lucas. Join us for Bible study, fellowship, a cookout, swimming, and both indoor and outdoor game opportunities including disc golf, basketball, pickle ball and tennis, as well as indoor games.

Adult Catechesis: If you know someone who would like to learn more about what we as Lutherans believe, please have them contact Pastor. One class is finishing up soon and I'd be happy to start a new one.

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

Choir: Please lend your voice and come sing with us. Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7p.m. Text or call Becky Greer, 504-812-7951, to be added to the Tuesday choir reminder/info text list. **Handchime Choir:** Rehearsals are held from 8:45 till 9:10a.m. only on the Sunday mornings we plan to ring during the Worship Service. Please come ring with us. If you are interested in ringing please let Becky Greer know so that you will begin to receive the Saturday handchime choir texts and know when our next rehearsal/ringing will be.

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

The 2023 Volunteer Church Cleaning Calendar is available in back of the church. We are in need of volunteers. If you have any questions, please speak with Denise Eggert after church. **Thank you** to all volunteers who have served.

A flower chart 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. **Venue search:** As we inch closer to outgrowing our current facility, the elders welcome all members to keep their ears and eyes open for possible future locations and to pass any leads on to them.

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.

Church Council and Voters: The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, October 1. At this meeting, the Treasurer and Elders will present a preliminary 2024 budget for discussion. Another council meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4. At this meeting, the budget and the Officer Slate for elections will be finalized. The Voters Meeting will be scheduled for December 3. The budget will be presented to the voters for approval and the election of 2024 officers will be held.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

(Check out the monthly article)

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 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 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, please see the two bulletin boards by the coffee cart for announcements that aren't always in the bulletin and newsletter. **Financial Reporting is on the whiteboard above the coffee cart.**
A list of who is serving is posted on the bulletin boards in the narthex. Thank you to all our volunteers.

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)

The LCMS Synodical convention just wrapped up at the start of August. If you missed my report in Bible class, you can read more here: https://reporter.lcms.org/?_gl=1*10tj201*_ga*MTIzODc2OTA1NS4xNjgwOTU4MTg1*_ga_Z0184DBP2L*MTY5MTU5MjU0MC44LjAuMTY5MTU5MjU0MC4wLjAuMA..

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

Other Articles/Resources

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

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

<https://steadfastlutherans.org/>

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

To God be the Glory!