



**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church  
& School

May 2023 Eagle Newsletter

# Memorial Day



**John 15:13 ESV**

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

## Introducing John Brenz

Last month (actually in March), I wrote about Martin Luther's participation in the Marburg Colloquy and his insistence that the proper understanding of the Lord's Supper comes from a straightforward interpretation of the words, "This is," when Jesus says, "This is my body." But Luther also had some friends with him, who occasionally stepped in and took part in the debate.

One of those friends was a young Swabian pastor and theologian by the name of John (Johannes) Brenz. Brenz was a fierce defender of the evangelical position associated with Martin Luther, but he was an independent thinker in many ways. Before Martin Luther began to develop his argument for the bodily presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper, John Brenz had already taken up the issue in response to another reformer named John Oecolampadius (pronounced echo – lamb – PAH – dius and is translated as "house light").

Oecolampadius was, like Ulrich Zwingli, a Swiss reformer. He held a similar view to Zwingli, but maintained that the words, "This is my body," should be interpreted as, "This is a symbol of my body." The reason for both Zwingli's and Oecolampadius' positions, which are essentially the same, is that it is the nature of a body to be in one place at any given time.

John Brenz's answer—which he further developed over the course of his career and life—was that the human nature of Jesus, which includes His body, receives divine attributes and powers from the divine nature. His position is what became known as the *genus maiestaticum*, or the "kind of majesty." The *genus maiestaticum* states that, in the incarnation, the divine nature of the Son of God communicates its attributes, including omnipresence, to the human nature.

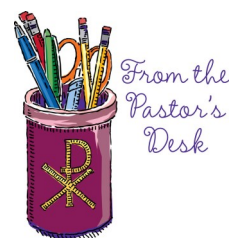
So to simplify his response without fancy theological terms, the body of Christ can indeed be present in more than one location at a time because it is also the body of God's Son.

Next time: What does Ephesians have to do with it?

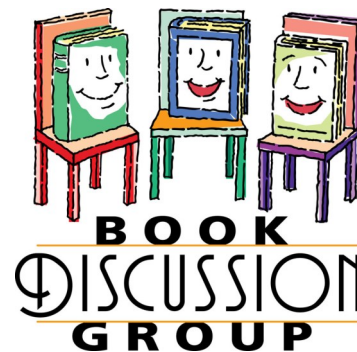
On a separate note, as you may have seen on the news, Chicago police departments have been hosting refugees as they transition to more permanent housing arrangements. Our very own 16th district has reached out to local faith communities about providing meals during the interim when they have not secured resources.

Please be on the lookout in the coming days and weeks for details about opportunities for us at St. John's to help out our neighbors in need.

In Christ,  
under the cross,  
Pastor Ehrhard



**Ladies Book Club:** In May The Ladies Book Club will be reading Slavery by Another Name by Douglas A. Blackmon. This Pulitzer Prize winning historical exposé illuminates one of the most shameful chapters in American history in the South, from the aftermath of the Civil War through the dawn of WW II. It reveals the re-emergence of human labor trafficking and the companies that profited the most. The Ladies Book Club continues to meet via ZOOM on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact Betty Carey if you would like to join us.



**From the Principal:** All St. John's constituents are invited to comment on St. John's Lutheran School's mission and vision statements and core values. St. John's school parents have been given the opportunity via the school's newsletter and faculty/staff have the opportunity to do so in their annual review of the school and faculty handbooks. St. John's Lutheran Church members also are invited to comment on the statements.

Listed below are St. John's Mission and Vision Statements as well as our Core Values. These were revised and adopted through participation in CLEF's Chicagoland Principal 360 program. Please send your comments regarding these statements to me at [principal@stjohnschicago.org](mailto:principal@stjohnschicago.org). Submitted comments will be considered in any potential revisions.

#### **Mission Statement:**

*"St. John's Lutheran School exists to provide a Christ-centered education in a safe environment to a culturally diverse student body that engages the whole child through an innovative academic program that promotes a love of learning and a life of service."*

#### **Vision Statement:**

*"St. John's Lutheran School will be known for equipping learners from diverse backgrounds to become empathetic and loving citizens who positively impact their community and world by living out the Gospel of Jesus through a life of service."*

#### **Core Values:**

*Faith | Family | Community | Love | Service | Academic Excellence*  
Principal Green

**June 2022 Voters Meeting:** The Voters Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:15AM. We will present the next fiscal year budget and conduct elections for the 2023-2025 term.

**Ascension Day Service:** St. John's will have a Divine Service for the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

**Trustees News:** New LED lights are being installed in the school and roof repairs are ongoing.

**Music News and Confirmation Photos:** During Lent and Easter St. John's was blessed to have several musicians add their talents to our worship services. Our thanks to Sarah Balsters (bassoon), Gretal Erhard (flute), Jon McGahan, Don Anderson (trumpets), Dan Garza and Ross Nuccio (trombones) for giving of their talents. Our Chancel Bell Choir also rang on Maundy Thursday and Easter Morning. Thank you to Laura, Katherine, Sarah, Barb, Renee, Don, Karen, Cheryl, Gretal and Meghan.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sat,  
May  
20th**

**12pm-  
4pm**

**St. John's  
Family  
Picnic &  
Auction**

Bring your  
family,  
friends, &  
neighbors

Music by  
DJ Mark Eggert

**4939 W MONTROSE AVE  
FREE ENTRY IN BACK PLAYLOT**

**RAFFLE & AUCTION • FOOD & DRINK • GAMES & MORE**

Funds raised will be used on playground upgrades & recess enhancements



MAY

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

# Pray For Us Calendar

## LCMS MISSIONARIES ON HOME SERVICE — MAY 1-15

Every other year, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) international missionaries spend approximately two months in the United States on "home service." During this time, they reconnect with the individuals, congregations and groups who support their mission work. Home service also gives them a period of rest and renewal and the chance to spend time with their families.

*Remember God's work through missionaries on home service as you pray:*

1. for the LCMS missionary families who will be on home service in 2018. Ask the Lord to keep them safe during their travels.
2. for God's hand to guide and bless the details and logistical arrangements that are a necessary part of missionary home service, such as transportation and housing.
3. for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.

4. for the Lord to guide missionaries as they prepare their presentations. Ask Him to help them to share their stories and ministry news with those who have so faithfully supported their ministry.
5. for missionary families. Pray that God would give emotional, physical and spiritual strength as they travel, share with supporters and meet new friends.
6. for missionary children. Pray that God would provide them with the opportunity to know that they are a vital part of their family's ministry.
7. that many congregations all over the United States would

welcome missionaries into their churches for mission presentations, Sunday school, children's messages, celebration luncheons, Bible studies and other activities.

8. that congregations and other groups would experience a revitalized interest in praying for missionaries and supporting their work, especially after visiting with them face-to-face and hearing about what God is accomplishing through them.
9. that as missionaries share their experiences, the listeners would consider serving as a missionary themselves — in a short-term, long-term or career capacity.
10. for the families of visiting missionaries, that they would enjoy their time together and mutually encourage one another.
11. for God to comfort and sustain the missionaries who are not able to see family and friends in the United States this year. May the

Holy Spirit comfort them with His presence and assurance of God's calling to serve far from home.

12. that missionaries would have an easy transition back to life in the United States — even for a short time during home service — with minimal effects of reverse culture shock.
13. that the Lord would raise up supporters for missionaries who are struggling to finding the resources necessary for their ministry.
14. with thanksgiving for the many forms of support and the joys the Lord provides to missionary families as they serve Him.
15. that the conversations started during home service would continue long after the missionary has returned to the mission field. Pray that through ongoing communication, missionaries and supporters would encourage one another.

PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/SERK M. LINSFORD

## MAY Pray For Us Calendar

### PARTNER CHURCHES — MAY 16-31

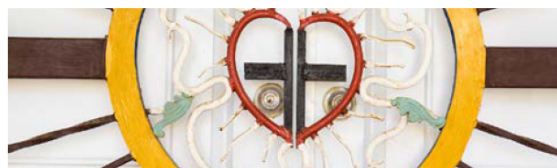
The LCMS has 38 partner churches around the world. A partner church is a church body with which the LCMS has full altar and pulpit fellowship. Many LCMS partner churches also are members of the International Lutheran Council, a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies. Some LCMS partner churches came into existence through LCMS-supported mission efforts, while others have historic roots that pre-date the LCMS or that are sourced in the mission efforts of other Lutheran church bodies.

*Remember God's work in His Church as you pray:*

16. for all LCMS partner churches, some of which only have a handful of congregations. Pray that they would never feel alone in their service to Christ and His Church.
17. for LCMS partner churches in Latin America and the Caribbean. Pray that God's Word would continue to spread throughout these countries to bring the Body of Christ together in fellowship and to be witnesses to His love.
18. for LCMS partner churches in Africa. Pray that God would strengthen Lutheran Christians in this region to carry out their work for His name's sake.
19. for LCMS partner churches in Asia, that God would guide and strengthen Lutheran Christians

in this region, especially in areas where it is difficult or dangerous to do His work.

20. for LCMS partner churches in Eurasia. Pray that God would continue to use His Word as a light to those in darkness and as a stronghold for the life of His Church.
21. with thanksgiving for all the missionaries who serve partner churches, that they would remain faithful in their tasks and be witnesses to the Gospel through acts of mercy.
22. for those who serve in leadership positions in LCMS partner churches around the world, as they guide, nurture and shepherd their people.
23. for the laypeople of LCMS partner churches around the world, that they would be fulfilled by God's Word and Sacraments.



24. that God would continue to raise up faithful servants for His Church in locations around the world.

25. for the Lutheran church bodies around the world interested in fellowship with the LCMS. Pray that God would guide the consideration process according to His will.
26. in thanksgiving for those who pray continually for those who serve where spreading God's Word is difficult or dangerous.
27. for Lutheran churches around the world that are dealing with strife between their members. Pray that the Lord would guide them to a peaceful resolution that would strengthen their witness to the community.
28. for the Lutheran churches in Eurasia as they seek to minister

to the refugees in their midst. Pray for safety for both the church workers and the refugees.

29. for all projects currently going on in LCMS partner church bodies, that each one would have the volunteers and resources necessary to carry out the work of the church as it shows mercy and provides physical and spiritual care for people around the world.
30. for safe travel between and within countries in each world region. Pray that pastors, missionaries, medical teams and all who travel to assist partner churches would be kept safe and healthy, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to the far corners of creation.
31. for all those still living in darkness, that the Gospel will be their light and life.

Congregations and individuals are invited to copy these pages for newsletters or other distribution. Download at [lcms.org/prayforus](http://lcms.org/prayforus) or call 888-843-5267 to request a copy.



PHOTO: LCMS COMMUNICATIONS/SERK M. LINSFORD



**Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUO** Find and Listen at: [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio).

**Issues, Etc.**—Weekdays @ 3PM CST or ON DEMAND via Website! Christ-centered, Cross-focused talk radio.

**Law and Gospel**—Weekdays @ 9:30AM CST or ON DEMAND via Website! This is a program that uses the theological distinctions between Law and Gospel not only to apply the Bible but also to understand our relationship to the holy Trinity, our gracious salvation because of Jesus Christ and how to interpret reality the way God thinks.

**Faith'n'Family**—Weekdays @ 10AM CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

Faith'n'Family is a program that lets family's keep their Lutheran faith first as we praise God for the gift He has given us in our children, parents, grandparents, and even the in-laws! Every day, Faith'n'Family will have an expert on the show to discuss life issues such as money management, dealing with divorce, adoption, how to raise children to lead a God-centered life in a very non-Christian world, and more. And the best part of all, you can be part of the show by calling in with your questions and comments for our expert! While Faith 'N Family at KFUO is well aware of the fast-paced world of today, we want to keep the focus of raising our family and yours on what's really important—making Christ known for generations to come!

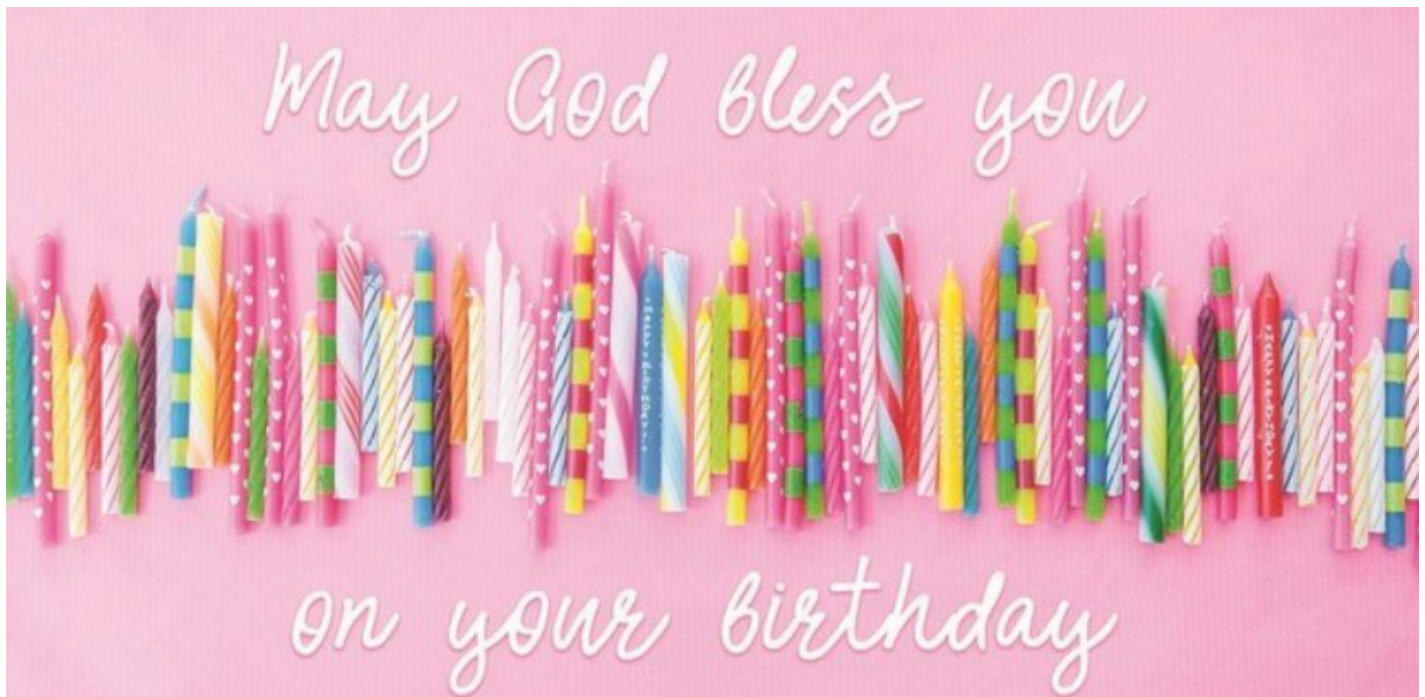
**Cross Defense**—Mondays @ 2pm CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

When a skeptic questions us about our faith, or when we ourselves have questions about what we believe, how do we answer them? Learn how to address modern-day issues and tough arguments levied against faith, *and* how to engage these conversations with intelligence and grace. Join us and discover how to share your faith clearly and lovingly.

**Free to be Faithful** — 3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 2:30PM CST or ON DEMAND via Website!

Free to be Faithful is very specific in addressing public policy matters that impact our LCMS community. It is often topical and linked to contemporary issues, such as political elections or the March for Life. The analytical program regularly has experts and observers interpreting the issues at hand and suggesting courses of action. Listen to high-caliber guests discussing in-depth knowledge of issues with host Kip Allen.



May 3rd

Laurene Lohman

May 4th

Kaimi Wo

May 5th

Joyce Owen

May 6th

Thomas Clark &amp; Mary Zanders

May 7th

Camilia Chavez

May 8th

James Van Tilburg

May 9th

Brooklyn Kincaid &amp; Jake Turrentine

May 14th

Lily Beeson &amp; Ronald Richner

May 15th

Jordy Yerkes

May 18th

Ron Byall

May 19th

Nancy Pankonin

May 20thDeborah Kraak, Karen McLane, Gary Sobiek  
& Leonard TornabeneMay 21st

Heather Helfen &amp; Judy Sobiek

May 23rd

Brian Dunn

May 26th

Austin Tully

May 27th

Wayne Wenzel

May 28th

David Osmon

May 30th

Leslee Johnson

May 31st

Joanne Peck



## May 2023 Stewardship Newsletter from the LCMS

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

