

# St. John's Monthly Newsletter

## May 2019

### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Newsletter Article: May 2019

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

## Serving this May:

**Elders:** Troy Walker & Larry Miller  
**Ushers:** 8:00 am: Steve & Barbara Degler  
10:30 am: Bob Reid, Emily Stortzum  
**Altar Guild:** Georgia Burtard & Margaret Hagen

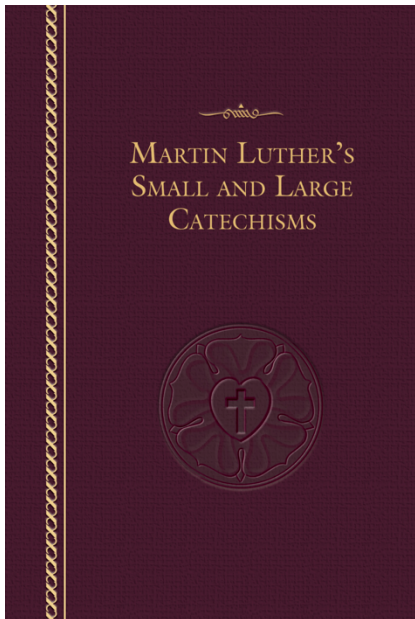
**Acolytes:**

*\*\*Please see the 3-month acolyte listing on the ledge*

## Book of the Month:

### **Martin Luther's Small & Large Catechisms**

*Call or email the church office if you want us to order for you!*



As readers learn Luther's foundational teachings in the Small Catechism, this volume will encourage them to go further in their doctrinal knowledge by studying the Large Catechism.

Written by Martin Luther in 1529, the Small and Large Catechisms provide a clear summary of God's Word on the essentials of the Christian faith. This edition combines the two catechisms and includes the woodcuts found in *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*.

Features bonded leather cover, with debossing and foil stamping, presentation page, gold gilded edges, and ribbon.

# Birthdays:

**May 1-** Tyler Lucier

**May 2-** Jason Wetzel, Jordan Snyder, Sarah Martin, Geoff Danielson

**May 3-** Abby Pierce, Chase Upton, Jamie Packer, Linda Kull, Sandy Dosien, Kaylin Richey

**May 4-** Savannah Cole, Stephen Wetzel

**May 6-** Lynn Blume

**May 7-** Matthew Woelber, Robert Walker, Joyce Zschau

**May 8-** Gabriel Stoll

**May 9-** Alex Easton, Sue Danielson

**May 10-** Kathie Ray

**May 11-** Libby VanHoveln

**May 12-** Alexandra Katz, Anyssa Petak, Carol Ewald

**May 14-** Samuel Kettleon, Jada Cobb

**May 15-** Allison Durdel, Dennis Titus, Fern Ostermeier

**May 16-** Nicole Lee

**May 17-** David Moore, Hannah Prevo

**May 18-** Sonja Cox, Oneita Mae Morris

**May 19-** Chuck Cookson, Lowell Miller, Megan Alwardt

**May 21-** Georgia Burtard, Larry Maxedon, Margaret Hagen

**May 24-** Matthew Titus, Sue Kroening

**May 25-** Amber Harlin, Arla Harrington, Randy Peadro, Michael Petak, Kennedy Wirth

**May 26-** Bruce Deitz, Isabelle Lucier

**May 27-** Marlene ZuHone, Noah Lange, Annabelle Colvis, Ethan Colvis

**May 28-** Douglas Ray, Grace Mauck

**May 29-** Mabrey VanHoveln

**May 30-** Susan Miller

**May 31-** Kevin Rankin, Leo Maldonado, Wanda Miller

# Anniversaries:

*Bruce & Jill Deitz May 1, 1971*

*Tom & Jane Roth May 1, 1982*

*Troy & Andrea Walker May 1, 1999*

*Sean & Sarah Hocking May 5, 2007*

*Alex & Alyssa Shepard May 9, 2015*

*Steven & Andrea Kleiboeker May 12, 1984*

*Scott & Lisa Claypool May 17, 1984*

*Rich & Jo Crackel May 21, 1983*

*Bill & Nancy Gass May 22, 1965*

*Pastor & Sarah Jacobsen May 24, 2008*

*William & Lynn Lee May 29, 1971*

*Don & Amy Sweeney May 30, 2009*

## Church & School News, Events, & Announcements:

**Voter's Meeting:** There will be a voters meeting on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 pm.

**St. John's Wall of Giving:** Located in the Fellowship Hall you will find our Wall of Giving. Pick a card from our wall with the donation amount you would like to give. Simply return your donation with the card to the church or school office. Your name will then be listed on our Donor Wall located at the school! ALL FUNDS RAISED GO DIRECTLY TO RETIRE THE DEBT!

**Scholarship Fund:** The school families have finished their financial assistance applications and awards for the 2019-2020 school year will be determined soon. Please consider making a donation to the scholarship fund!

**Shred Day:** Thrivent Financial will host shred and electronics recycle day in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 18 from 9 am to 11 am. There is a flyer with more information on the church bulletin board.

**Gifts for Choices Pregnancy Center** may be placed in the crib at the parking lot doors. Diapers, wipes, baby clothing would all be appreciated. The crib will be there until Father's Day.

### **Prayer Requests:**

#### **Those In Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery (Recently Added):**

Ken Rufener  
Roberta Dosien

Caroline Walker – Aunt of Margaret Hagen  
Paul Morrison – Bart Kirts Dad

#### **For those Serving Our Nation:**

Jason Wetzel - stationed in Iraq

#### **Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:**

Alan Phelps  
Richard Grice  
Ava Gass  
Howard Diepholz  
Tara Stortzum  
Debbie Albin

John Kendall  
Bob Zschau  
Chuck Cookson  
Shirley Donnell

Jules Martin – Brother of Michael Martin  
Kevin Shaffer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher's Husband  
Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith