

EPISTLE

EPISTLE
VOLUME 43
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St. John's Lutheran Church
508 Bloom Street
Red Bud IL 62278

"Free"

AUGUST 2013

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
& 10:30 pm

**Sunday School &
Bible Classes**

Sunday 9:30 am

HOLY COMMUNION

1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS

1ST AND 3RD
8:00 AM SVC.
2ND AND 4TH
10:30 AM SVC.

COMMUNION IN ALL
SERVICES IF THERE
IS A 5TH WEEKEND OR
FESTIVAL

WHAT'S INSIDE...

PASTOR NEBEL'S
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CHURCH
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PRINCIPAL'S
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WHAT'S UP AT
SCHOOL

CHURCH/SCHOOL
CALENDAR

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Are you like me in believing I ought to pay for some things, but others things I should get for free? Let me give you a few examples:

* I expect to pay for my seat on an airplane, but ... I think my suitcase ought to ride for free.

* I expect to pay for gas at a service station, but ... I believe air for my tires should be free.

* I expect to pay taxes to the government, so ... I don't expect to be charged entry to a National Park.

Still, looking at that list, I have to be thankful I'm not a woman in Zimbabwe who is giving birth to her child in the hospital. In a nation where the average income is \$150 a year, hospitals routinely charge \$50 to deliver a baby. While that cost is high, a baby's delivery is something for which you expect to pay. But, in Zimbabwe some hospitals charge a woman \$5 for every time she screams during delivery. Even worse, they won't release the child until the charges are paid.

Yes, some things in life have to be paid for, and other things ought to be free.

At the top of the list of things for which a person must pay is the price of his sin. People are terribly wrong if they think they can violate God's will and commandments and get away without making restitution. There are no loopholes, no hidden escape clauses, no wiggle room.

Scripture is clear: "the wages of sin is death."

Sadly, even the best examples of humanity are unable to pay that price. Try as we might, struggle as we will, throughout our lives the debt for our sin keeps growing. Without assistance we would live and die with the balance sheet showing a giant, outstanding debt being owed to the Lord.

Thankfully, the Lord also believes there are things in life which ought to be free. At the top of God's list of free things is forgiveness of sin. Of course, forgiveness is free only for us. God's justice demanded our debt had to be paid. Seeing our helplessness, the Lord sent His Son into the world as one of us. Here, Jesus took our place and throughout His life and with His death, paid the debt our transgressions had incurred.

Now, with the Savior's third-day resurrection from the dead, our debt has been wiped out and all who believe on Jesus as their Savior are forgiven and freed. Because that is so, St. Paul didn't end his sentence with "the wages of sin is death." No, because of Jesus' blood-bought forgiveness the apostle could continue: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

All of this explains why you and I should be eternally grateful we have a God who believes there are things in life which need to be paid for and other things which ought to be free.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, I give thanks Jesus has paid a debt I could not pay. May I live my life in appreciation of the price He paid so that I might be freely forgiven. In His Name. Amen.

“Happy New (School) Year!”

In the Spring 2013 of Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly Dr. Mark Braun, a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WELS) authored an article that was very interesting to me. “What Our Fathers Taught Us about Lutheran Schools” focused on how Lutheran church leaders in America in the late 1800s emphasized the importance of Lutheran schools. I share with you the headings from the article before I move on to two items that I want to highlight:

Our fathers taught us the biblical command to teach the gospel to our children.

Our fathers taught us to appreciate the educational heritage of Martin Luther.

Our fathers taught us the Lutheran schools were an essential component in our ministry.

Our fathers taught us the great importance and supreme blessings of Christian day schools.

A footnote in this article cited another article called “A Grave Situation and How It Is Met” in the April 1931 edition of Lutheran School Journal. The author of this article was A.C. Stellhorn, School Executive for the LCMS at that time. Does that name sound familiar to us? It should! He was a Red Bud native, born in our area on June 2, 1878. One of our very own, he knew the benefits of Lutheran education and was a leader in our church body when it came to encouraging congregations to start and support Lutheran day schools in the first half of the last century.

Another footnote in Mark Braun’s article addresses a common reason parents have for not enrolling their children in their congregation’s day school, that they don’t want to “shelter” or “isolate” their children from the world. In a January 1957 article “New Interest in Christian Day Schools” Carl Lawrenz responds in a very modern way:

It is not the isolation of our children that we have to fear in these days of television, radio, and the movies, but their exposure to every type of worldly thought and conduct even during their formative years when they need to be grounded in Christian truth and trained for a Christian mode of life. Even while our children are attending a

Christian day school, they will have ample contacts with others to bear witness to their faith. The thorough instruction and training they receive in Christian day schools can put them in a position to bear an effective witness with their conduct and attitudes and to maintain this Christian witness in their adult life when there will be everything else but isolation for them.

If this absence of isolation in the lives of our Lutheran school students was the case 55 years ago, it is even more true today in the age of the internet, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Christian education in our Lutheran schools will not shelter or isolate our children from the world. That is impossible in our day and age!

What an education in a Lutheran school will do for our children is give them some balance to the messages of the sinful world in which we live and provide them some strength of spirit in the face of the temptations they encounter every day of their lives. What’s more, as the Lawrenz quote emphasis, education in a Lutheran school will form the witness of their Christian lives both as children and as adults.

A popular image in Lutheran schools in the past was the picture of Jesus taking up children in His arms, inspired by His words in Mark 10:13. Today let us continue to lead our little ones into the loving arms of our Lord and allow them to be taught His precious words of life and salvation.

*Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Mark Nebel*



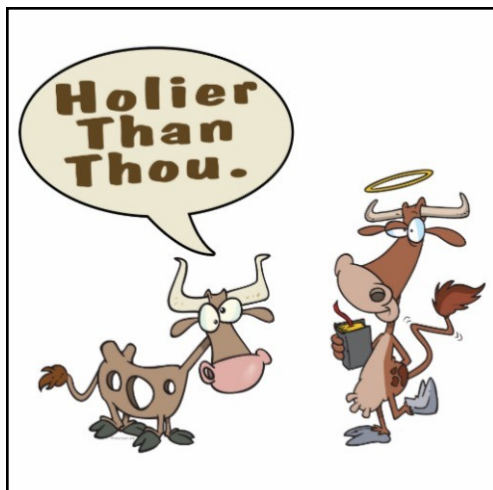
Upcoming Events

Careers for Christ weekend "Living Love" at Concordia University Chicago on October 25-27 for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who are interested in becoming church professionals. Go to CUChicago.edu/C4C or call 708-209-3100

LutherHostel "Joyfully Aging" at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on October 5-8 for senior adults 55 and older. Dr. Rich Bimler, former CEO of Wheat Ridge Ministries, will be the main presenter. The registration cost of \$375 per person includes all meals. Housing is available dormitory style on campus or at local hotels. A registration form is on the church bulletin board. Contact ce@csli.edu or call 314-505-7286 for more information.



HOLY HUMOR



Tangy Cucumber and Avocado Salad

Recipe makes 4 servings

2 medium cucumbers, cubed

2 avocados, cubed

4 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

1 clove garlic, minced

2 tablespoons minced green onions (optional)

1/4 teaspoon salt

black pepper to taste

1/4 large lemon

Directions

In a large bowl, combine cucumbers, avocados, and cilantro. Stir in garlic, onions, salt, and pepper. Squeeze lemon and lime over the top, and toss.

Cover, and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.

From The Desk of Pastor Koen:

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer, He told them this parable: Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything?' The man eventually gave the friend what he needed because the friend was persistent.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples to pray, He also taught them to be persistent with their prayers. Don't give up, God is listening. He told them: "ask and it will be given to you; see, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you."

When I was in the Seminary, my classmates would say to me when I would pray about something I needed: "move over for something is about to happen." I worked my way through college as well as through the Seminary. The cost back then was a challenge to meet. One day the Financial Director called me into his office to let me know that I had to come up with an enormous amount of money before the dead line or else I had to pack my bags and go home. I was quite distraught at the possibility of leaving the Seminary after being there for two years. I went into the Quad (center of the campus) that night in the middle of a storm and prayed to God, asking why He allowed me to come thus far with my Seminary training. I prayed to God persistently asking Him to open the doors for me to stay or to return to my home. My heart was truly torn apart. God was listening to my prayer.

The next day, the Financial Director called me to his office to let me know that a woman from Minnesota sent enough money for me to complete that second year. I have never forgotten that night, the gift God provided through that woman and the privilege of serving God these thirty years of ministry.

Jesus tells us: "For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

Take time to pray to God each day, He is waiting to hear from you. He will listen to what you have to say.

Your Brother in Christ

Pastor Koen



The Senior Youth monthly meeting is Sunday, August 4 at 7pm at school. This is the first meeting since our "freshman" welcome BBQ, so we are excited to see all the new members at this meeting. We will also be taking recommendations for officers at this meeting. Please prayerfully consider running for a position: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Director.

At this time we don't have any fun activities scheduled for the month of August. This could change at the monthly meeting.

We are working on service projects with Act 1:8 Mission Society. We plan to help them as they convert the parsonage at The Rock into a home where families with loved ones at a neighboring hospital can have a place to sleep, eat, and do their laundry, etc.

September monthly meeting will be Sunday, September 8 at 7pm at school. Please note that this is NOT the first Sunday of the month due to the Labor Day holiday.

In Christ,

Terry and Susie Harms



Altar Guild Flower Servers

The Altar flower servers for August are Betty Schmitz and Cindy Steele. Please call the office @ 282-3873 if you wish to donate flowers or have questions concerning flowers.



Baptism

Alexa Ann Cheek
July 28, 2013
Greyson James Kipping
July 28, 2013

Death

Alberta "Bertie" Rosenberg
July 23, 2013



EVENING GUILD NEWS by Lisa Kloepper

THERE IS NO AUGUST GUILD MEETING.

HOWEVER, SPEND THE MONTH SEARCHING OUT OLD CARDS AND CUTTING CROSSES TO BE USED FOR PRISON MINISTRY. IF YOU NEED A PATTERN, PLEASE CALL MARIE VOGES OR LISA KLOEPPER.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 17.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND PLAN ON THE USUAL POTLUCK. THINK ABOUT BRINGING A FRIEND OR MORE.

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE TAKEN THEIR TIME TO SERVE VARIOUS FUNERAL LUNCHESES SO FAR OVER THE SUMMER.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS ~ GLORIFY HIS NAME

From the Principal:

As we approach the end of July, we always catch ourselves asking the question, "Where did the summer go?!" The summer days keep passing and before we know it, the end of July is here! It is exciting to start the new school year. Our theme for the year is "Christ is our Cornerstone". Our Bible verse is taken from Psalm 127:1a, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Registration night was held on July 10 with many families present. We are expecting about 162 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Mrs. Steele is expecting about 45 students in her preschool classes. An exact amount of students will be reported when all registrations have been completed. Mrs. Stephanie Valleroy has been contracted for the year for the second first grade and Mrs. Laura Vause will sub during her maternity break.

Thanks to all who helped during work week, your dedication and support are greatly appreciated. Work week was quite productive with the following jobs being accomplished: walls were washed down in the main halls, day-care and the west end of school; windows and screens were washed; and the shrubs in front of school were trimmed and a large load of mulch was delivered for our main playground. Thank you to Faye and David Reinhardt for providing lunch for all workers throughout the week. Thank you as well to the following people who came and dedicated their time and hard work for the benefit of our school: Nathan, Patty, Jenna and Dustin Salger, Bill Becker, Cindy Steele, Virginia Moeller, Chris Gidley, Kallin and Kathy Liefer, Betty Schmitz, Glenda Baker, Bart Miller, Justin Palm, Todd Birkner, Alan Piel, Chad Langrehr, Jared Heller, Kent

Liefer, Brad Jones, Randy Ellner, Danny Moll and Tommy Mulherin. If anyone has been forgotten, please know that we greatly appreciate your help.

Please forgive me if your name is not mentioned because it was not recorded on my list, your help was very much appreciated also! The expansion expenses have been covered by the PTL dinner auction money set aside for the expansion of the school. It is wonderful to put this money to use so that more students can hear about Jesus as their Lord and Savior each day at school.

A new security system will be in place for both the Daycare and Day school children. A buzzer will be used to allow visitors into the building. Exact procedures will be posted in the bulletin and Cougar Tracks when the system is in place.

The new school year will begin with an Opening Chapel Service on Aug. 20 at 8:30 AM in the church. Rev. Mark Nebel will conduct the service. **The school day will last till 1:40 PM with lunch included.** We will follow the same schedule as the Red Bud district schools. Buses are expected to run as other years even though we have a new company. Schedules for all the years' activities will be distributed at the beginning of school. A sports schedule is included for your convenience.

Enjoy the final days of summer! The faculty and staff look forward to a new school year serving our students and families.

In Christ,

Deitt Schneider



1st DAY OF SCHOOL
August 20th - 8:05-1:40pm
Lunch is served

NEW State Lunch Guidelines for 2013-2014 will mean your child will see whole grain wheat bread at lunch and desserts will not be served very often. Please encourage your child to try new things. Thank you, *Jill*

- Aug 1— 7 pm Kindergarten Orientation in the school lobby
- Aug 5— 9 am Faculty Meeting
- Aug 7— 7 am Board of Education
- Aug 12— 7 pm SS Teacher's Meeting
- Aug 14— 9 am Faculty Meeting & Faculty Lunch
- Aug 19— 8am Faculty Meeting
- Aug 20— 1st Day of School—Lunch is Served—Early Dismissal at 1:40pm
Please join us for Opening Chapel (8:30am) at church and the Welcome Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- Aug—25 10:30am Teacher Re-dedication

SAVE THE DATE: *September 1st* is Rally Day at school 9:25am—Everyone is welcome to join us for the 8th grade breakfast being held at school in the gym between church services!

September 8th - 8th grade BBQ

September 13-14—8th grade Rummage Sale—you may begin bringing items into school on Monday, September 9th.

August Acolyte Schedule

03-Aug	Saturday	5:00	Bryce Becker
04-Aug	Sunday	8:00	Alex Quinn
04-Aug	Sunday	10:30	Katie Harms
10-Aug	Saturday	5:00	Taylor Giglotto
11-Aug	Sunday	8:00	Amber Mollet
11-Aug	Sunday	10:30	Adam Wild
17-Aug	Saturday	5:00	Bailey Booker
18-Aug	Sunday	8:00	Mackenzie Schweizer
18-Aug	Sunday	10:30	Drew Kueker
24-Aug	Saturday	5:00	Paige Moses
25-Aug	Saturday	8:00	Kole Liefer
25-Aug	Sunday	10:30	Emma Fritsche
31-Aug	Saturday	5:00	Jarrett Fleming
01-Sep	Sunday	8:00	Gage Baldwin
01-Sep	Sunday	10:30	Claudia Waters

August Greeter Schedule

3—Aug Saturday	5:00	Harold and Debbie Siegfried
4—Aug Sunday	8:00	Lois Mesnarich; Roger Hanebutt; Ken and Joan Ruwald
4—Aug Sunday	10:30	Gerald and Nancy Holmstrom; Carl and Flo Zschiegner
10—Aug Saturday	5:00	Virginia and Mark Moeller
11—Aug Sunday	8:00	Milton and Mary Ann Weber; Clyde and Kathy Rowold
11—Aug Sunday	10:30	Bruce and Christa Brundage; Larry and Cindy Ebers
17—Aug Saturday	5:00	Harold and Debbie Siegfried
18—Aug Sunday	8:00	Wil and Martha Krick; Cindy Steele; Olivia Schmitz
18—Aug Sunday	10:30	Bob and Arlene Pratt; Omar and Neva Liefer
24—Aug Saturday	5:00	Virginia and Mark Moeller
25—Aug Sunday	8:00	John and Norma Preston; Loren and Nancy Harms
25—Aug Sunday	10:30	Jackie Esker; Ron and Donna Burgdorf
31—Aug Saturday	5:00	Miriam Poston
1—Sept Sunday	8:00	Ken and Joan Voges; Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
1—Sept Sunday	10:30	Bob and Joyce Carnahan; Ken and Karen Wetzell