

## *The Epistle*

**DECEMBER 2021**

**St. John's Lutheran  
Red Bud, Illinois**

**Church: 508 Bloom Street  
618/282-2394**

**School: 808 South Main Street  
618/282-3873**

**618-282-4087 (fax)**

**office@stjohnsredbud.org**

**www.stjohnsredbud.org**

**Worship: Saturdays at 5 p.m.**

**Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.**

**Christian Education Hour:**

**Sundays from 9:30-10:15 a.m.**

We preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
administer the sacraments and provide  
Christian education in service to all people.

*Rev. Mark A. Nebel, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor*

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

*Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal*

*Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education*

*Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director*

### ***From Lutheran Church Charities***

#### **"Hold On Until Joy Comes"**

*For His anger lasts only for a moment, but His favor lasts  
for a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night but  
rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalm 30:5*

Pain is an inevitable part of life and growth; a beneficial part! Stop and consider some of its benefits: 1) It lets you know when there's something wrong in your body that needs to be made right. 2) It forces you to acknowledge a condition you didn't know about; one that could potentially claim your life. 3) It makes you rearrange your priorities and your schedule and seek help. 4) It makes you willing to submit to treatment you may not enjoy, believing that it will make you whole. Are you getting the idea?

Strange as it may seem, the more you dread and resist the pain, the more you increase the effect it has on you. What we resist persists, and the more pain is resisted, the stronger it becomes. When a pregnant woman goes into labor, the advice she generally gets from her medical team is to 'relax'. They know the more she fights the pain, the stronger it will become and the longer the delivery process will take. So when you are experiencing pain, don't fight it. Walk through it and allow it to accomplish its purpose. The

Bible says: *'When troubles...come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know...when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing'* (James 1:2-4). So the word for today is – learn to endure this season of pain, knowing that God has promised you joy on the other side of it!

Prayer- Heavenly Father, thank You for the pain I feel for a time because of the greater gain I experience from it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Your Pastors' Ponderings**

In preparing my sermon for the First Sunday in Advent (November 28), I came across these words about the Advent season, "The congregation that observes Advent will mark time differently from those people who live December as a countdown to Christmas and the end of the year. The Sundays of Advent count forward to a time that begins with the birth of Christ. The First Sunday in Advent is for Christians the first Sunday of the year, a new year in sacred time, opening to the mystery and certainty of God's presence" (Deborah Block).

The world around us wants to rush to Christmas, and then, having gotten there on December 25, wants to get it over with as soon as possible. But that is when we, as the Christian Church, begin to celebrate Christ's birth. That 12-day season is our time to enjoy the music, look at the lights, have fun with the family and celebrate our Savior who has come to us and for us, God's own Son living in our human flesh, born as the Baby of Bethlehem.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

There are many places in the Bible where it speaks of a pastor as being a shepherd. In the service of Installation as an Associate Pastor, I vowed that I was willing and ready to accept the responsibilities that come with being an Associate Pastor, responsibilities such as teaching, guiding, directing, etc. this congregation according to God's Word.

I understand that many people are private and like to keep things to themselves. I understand that, in this earthly world, we don't want to be ridiculed, treated differently, and so on because of something we may be dealing with in our life. It could be the death of a loved one, an unexpected and negative medical diagnosis, the fact that we are suffering from depression, or some other mental disorder. I get it. We don't want to be seen as **imperfect**. However, whether you care to admit it or not, we are all poor miserable sinners, and none ... not even one of us, is **perfect**.

However, we need to realize that we are someplace different, a place we are loved and cared for by our Lord and Savior and by fellow members of this congregation. Yes, we live in an imperfect world and some here may take things from here out into the real world. When we gather together, in God's house, we come together to praise, worship, hear God's Word, receive the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and so much more. It's a safe place. A place we can come to avoid the distractions, and practices of the sin-filled world in which we live when we exit the doors of this church.

There should be no reason why we, God's people, are not bringing forward our prayers, problems, issues, etc. before God in prayer. Pastor Nebel and I need to be made aware of hospitalizations, problems occurring in your life, etc. We should be offering them up in our weekly prayers. If you want, we can limit the prayer to an individual's first name for further anonymity. We should also be bringing forward the names of those who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, baptismal birthdays, etc. We need to all be in prayer for one another and together as a family. Feel free to contact Pastor Nebel, Pastor Nowak, or Leslie Froemling with worship prayer information.

Pastor Nebel and I are here for you. We are your pastors and shepherds. There is no reason why you should feel that you are somehow bothering or distracting us from our daily routines/obligations. It is part of our calling to be present for you in times of trouble, concerns, etc. Whether it be something you did that you need to confess and receive forgiveness for, a family member who is about to pass on, something you or someone else is dealing with, even just to simply talk or pray together, etc. **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!!!** Please let us know if you need anything.

*God's blessing to you all now and always,  
Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor*

**December Servers**

Flowers: Alverda Rahn and Lynn Langrehr  
Paraments: Irma Birkner Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Poinsettia Garden forms are on the tables in the back of church. The cost is \$7 and you may return it to the office or by way of the offering basket by Monday, December 20. Thank you!

**Welcome to Our Family of Faith**

November 6 Baptism of Kullen Lee Liefer  
November 13 Baptism of June Elizabeth Russell  
November 28 Baptism of Dallin Joseph Liefer

**We Bid a Fond Farewell**

November 28 Death of Jane Moeller

**ELDER ZONES FOR 2021:** (Chairman, Eric Fritsche)

- Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder Eric Fritsche (618/410-5989)
- Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Larry Gielow (618/830-4689)
- Zone 3: N/E Grohmann thru R/K Herriman- Elder Jacob Arbeiter (618/615-1108)
- Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Adam Guebert (618/920-2403)
- Zone 5: Wil/Martha Krick thru Janel Maes- Elder David Reinhardt (618/967-7967)
- Zone 6: Pat Malik thru Lanie Pensoneau- Elder Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)
- Zone 7: A/A Piel thru Don Schrader- Elder Mike DeRousse (618/719-7024)
- Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Kevin Guebert (618/973-4356)
- Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann thru Doug Zschiegner- Elder Kirk Liefer (618/559-7950)

**Fellowship Hall Midweek Bible Studies are on a break until the first week in January.**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois  
Worship Calendar: 2021-2022 Church Year**

DECEMBER 2021

Wed	1	8:30 a.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Christmas (school)
Wed	1	7 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (church)
Sat/Sun	4/5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Wed	8	8:30 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas (school)
Wed	8	7 p.m. Midweek Advent Service (church)
Thu	9	<b>*3 p.m.</b> Holy Communion Service
Sat/Sun	11/12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Wed	15	8:30 a.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas (school)
Wed	15	7 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service
Sat/Sun	18/19	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent
Tue	21	8:30 a.m./7 p.m. 6-8 Christmas Service
Fri	24	*3 & 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion
Fri	24	*9 p.m. Christmas Eve Com./Candlelight
Sat	25	*9 a.m. Christmas Day Communion
Sun	26	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Christmas (St. Stephen, Martyr) <b>(one service at 9 a.m.)</b>
Fri	31	*6 p.m. New Year's Eve Communion

JANUARY 2022

Sat/Sun	1/2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas
Thu	6	<b>*3 p.m.</b> Epiphany Communion Service

**Congratulations!**

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Maggie DuFrenne was Student of the Month for October. St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Hannah Sievers was the Student of the Month for November. This program is sponsored by the Red Bud Lions Club.

### *From the Internet on Internet Worship*

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation as online services have become very convenient for us it is important for us to remember why in-person worship attendance matters so much to us and our families.

We cannot serve others from our sofas. We cannot enjoy the larger community of faith from our living rooms. We cannot experience the spiritual power of a room full of believers worshipping together from our recliners.

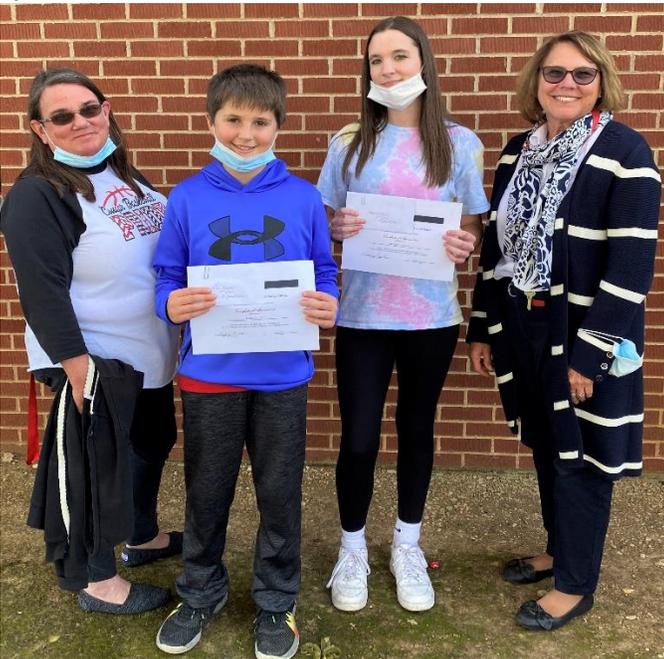
We Christians are not consumers of religion. We are contributors to the Body of Christ. We do not watch worship. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray for the hurting standing with one another. We do life together.

The church needs you to be the church and you need the church to be the Body of Christ.

### *From the Principal's Pen*

Greetings to you this Advent season! As we prepare for the Christ Child, may your days be a blessing as we share the wonderful news with our family and friends.

Congratulations to two of our students who placed in the Patriots Pen essay contest. Liam Quintin earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Morgan Kent received 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They are pictured below with English teacher Nancy Whelan and myself.



Speaking of Mrs. Whelan, we congratulate her for being selected as the VFW Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Award winner. We are proud to recognize our students and teacher for representing our school and community. She is pictured with VFW members Clarence Nail, Larry Ehlers and Clyde Rowold.



Both our boys and girls are busy with regular season basketball games and cheerleading. Please check the schedule for dates and times.

Thanks for all who ordered Watkins again this year. The money helps to support the sports uniform account.

We are preparing our Christmas messages with our children. They are working hard to learn their parts in word and song. We once again will have a smaller service because of COVID restrictions. Each class will share a part of the Christmas story. When your child's class has the main presentation, family members are invited to come to school to watch and participate. Each service will be recorded and uploaded for viewing at a later time. The schedule of these services is as follows:

- Grade 3 on December 1 at 8:30 am
- Preschool on December 3 at 8:30 am
- Grade 4 on December 8 at 8:30 am
- Kindergarten on December 10 at 8:30 am
- Grade 5 on December 15 at 8:30 am
- Grade 1 on December 17 at 8:30 am
- Grade 2 on December 20 at 8:30 am
- Grades 6-8 on Dec. 21 in church at 8:30 am and 7 pm.

Our students once again will be able to shop the Christmas cottage on December 2 and 3. This is sponsored by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. The funds earned will go towards their Washington DC trip in 2025.

Our only early dismissal day for December will be Tuesday, December 21. Dismissal will be at 1:45 p.m. There will be no after-school care that day.

May the joy, love, peace and hope of Christmas fill your hearts during the Christmas season and into the new year!  
*God's blessings, Mrs. Deitt Schneider*



St. John's members John Preston, Kathy Rowold and Clyde Rowold represented the Red Bud VFW at our school's Veterans Day program on Friday, November 12. Pictured below are the students taking part in the presentation.



### Evening Guild News

**Evening Guild Christmas Party** is Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a potluck dinner with games and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish. Fried chicken will be provided by the Evening Guild. Husbands and guests are welcome. Devotions by Marie Voges.

**Quilting** schedule for December is Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Baldwin Sight Center:** Volunteer your time to make large print books at the Baldwin center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December. Call Mary Ann Wegener (282-2893) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

**LWML Winter Quarterly** and SID Newsletter December issue: Available for pick up in church narthex or at the Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**LWML Scholarships:** Southern Illinois District LWML offers scholarships to students going into full time church work (pastor, teacher, DCE). Applications are at [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org) and must be submitted by March 15.

**Christmas Hour with Donna Snow:** Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL 62234

**Food Drive:** We are sponsoring a food drive for the Musketeer Market. A box is in the Fellowship Hall into which you can place your donation.

### From Your Director of Christian Education

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

AGPS Hymn #186, stanza one

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We await the commemoration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Jesus came to us as the babe of Bethlehem. He came in God's perfect timing. He is coming again also in God's perfect timing. The worries of this present age will soon fade away. God's perfect plan of salvation has been revealed. As we proceed through the coming month and into a new year, I pray God's peace and comfort is with all of you! My family wishes to send a special thank you for those who expressed words of peace and comfort at the passing of my father, Boniface Becker, on November 14.

The Junior Youth will assist with the decorating of the church on December 5. The school children in grades three through five will sing at Garden Place on Friday, December 10. The primary Sunday school Christmas service will be on Wednesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. in the church. Please join us as we listen to our youngest Sunday school students share the account of Jesus' birth.

Preschool through grade two will lead the Friday morning chapel services and a Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> service. Grades three through five will also lead the Wednesday morning Chapel services as their Christmas service in the new gym. Third Grade will lead on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Fourth Grade will lead on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Fifth Grade will lead on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in person when your family member leads a service. Grades six through eight will lead us in services at church on Tues., Dec. 21 at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. You in-person attendance is welcome for both of those services.

The Senior Youth will participate in the 9 p.m. candlelight service on December 24. There will be no Sunday school on December 26. The Sunday School teachers will meet on Monday, December 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the school's library.

While most of our school Christmas services remain in a limited capacity the Gospel message remains to share the love of the newborn babe of Bethlehem with the World. God's richest blessings to you and yours this Christmas!

*DCE Bill Becker*

### Script Gift Cards

If you would like to order gift cards through our script program, we will place orders on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunday School**

Perfect Attendance for November: 1st: Elsie Liefer, Maggie Kuehn, Liam Langrehr and Brewer Krick; 3rd: Maverick Cowell, Sydney Krick and Lucy Kuehn; 4th: Aubrey Kiefer, Payton Liefer and Jozlynn Palm; 5th: Ella Cowell; 6th: Molly Kuehn. Thank you for your participation in and your faithfulness to our Sunday School ministry!

**MISSION PROJECT**: Big City Mission project Gifts and offerings to the Big City Mission project help kids and adults learn about how much Jesus loves them. By providing something simple like a lunch or backpack, those involved in urban ministry can build relationships that allow them to tell people about their Savior, Jesus!

### **Men's Club**

The Men's Club thanks everyone who bought meals, donated pies and volunteered their time to help make our Wurstmarkt on November 14 so successful. Thanks to the Senior Youth Group for again taking care of the dine-in customers. There were 704 meals served, which was almost split evenly between dine-in and carryout. This was our best attendance since 2016. Thanks for your participation!

Our Men's Club will meet on Thursday, December 9. The evening will start with a backbone and sauerkraut dinner at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed by fun Christmas activities.

### **Senior Youth**

If anyone needs leaf raking for their yard this year, please contact us directly to arrange for a day and time.

Senior Youth members will assist with the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service. Please dress nicely as you will serve as greeters, ushers and acolytes for our celebration of Christ's birth.

Our Senior Youth is selling greeting cards (all occasions) for \$1. Cards are on display in the Fellowship Hall. We are using an honor system for payment. A money box is next to the card display. We also have full boxes of greeting cards for sale. They cost \$30 for 30 cards and come with a lovely storage box.

So far, 16 youth are registered for the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston next July. More can go but we need to hear from you ASAP!

Young adults ages 19-25 are encouraged to serve at the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, TX! Applications to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) are now open online! The application is available for ONE more month and will close on December 31!

*Terry and Susie Harms*

### **Junior Youth**

Our Junior Youth (Grades 4-8) will assist with the decorating of our church building for Christmas on Sunday, December 5. We will begin at 12:30 p.m. and should be completed by 2:30 p.m. Thanks for your help!

### **Music CDs Available**

St. John's member Joan Voges is offering music CDs from her Lilyfields Collection to us for a donation to our school's ministry. All of her Lilyfield CDs are available on the table in the entryway for a \$10 donation to our school ministry.

Former St. John's member Bryan Perdue has made his latest CD of music, "Freely Given, Freely Received," available for us to purchase. The \$10 will be used for our congregation's Debt Reduction. They are on the table in the church entryway.

### **Calling For Worship Greeters**

Whether you have done this in the past or would be new to this ministry service, we have need of you. Please call or email Pastor if you are willing to serve St. John's in this way. We need one person for the late service and two people for the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday evening of the month (only four times a year) and for special services (Thanksgiving!).

### **Event Reminders On Your Cell Phones**

Remind Me.com is a free system that will allow us to send text messages to you reminding you of what is happening in our family of faith here at St. John's. However, it does not allow for group discussions so that there will not be continued unwanted messages from anyone in the group receiving the text. To join this remind system for St. John's, text the message @8243ad2 (new code) to the number 81010. Please contact our office at 282-2394 with your questions.

### **Website Bible Studies**

Bible studies topics under the Media tab of our website [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org) are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, Baptism Q & A, Church & Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, End of the World, Discussing Homosexuality, Fear or Faith? Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living, God's Will in the Lives of His People, Haggai, Having the Right Attitude, Heaven, The Justice of God, Justification and Sanctification, Islam, Live By the Spirit, Malachi, Meditation, Philemon, Purses, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, and Word Dwellers.

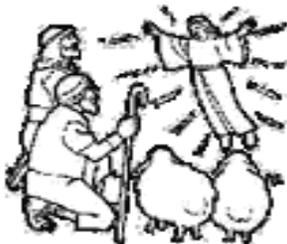
### Worship Greeters

Sat. Dec. 4	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Dec. 5	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat. Dec. 11	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Dec. 12	8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. Dec. 18	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Dec. 19	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sun. Dec. 26	<b>9 a.m.</b> Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn
Sat. Jan. 1	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Jan. 2	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel

### Acolyte Schedule

Wed. Dec. 1	7 p.m. Austin Kiefer
Sat. Dec. 4	5 p.m. Addy Schloemann
Sun. Dec. 5	8 a.m. Austin Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Loreli Aubuchon
Wed. Dec. 8	7 p.m. Sage Pensoneau
Sat. Dec. 11	5 p.m. Karleigh Liefer
Sun. Dec. 12	8 a.m. Evan Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Lilly Meyer
Wed. Dec. 15	7 p.m. Molly Kuehn
Sat. Dec. 18	5 p.m. Ava Clifford
Sun. Dec. 19	8 a.m. Mallory Arbeiter 10:30 a.m. Hollis Wolfmeier
Fri. Dec. 24	3 p.m. Grayson Herriman 5 p.m. Kendall Crafton 9 p.m. Senior Youth
Sat. Dec. 25	9 a.m. Mr. Becker
Sun. Dec. 26	<b>9 a.m.</b> Kinley Macbeth
Fri. Dec. 31	6 p.m. Brian Liefer
Sat. Jan. 1	5 p.m. Case Hess
Sun. Jan. 2	8 a.m. Lucas McCarthy 10:30 a.m. Molly Kuehn

*If you are not able to serve when scheduled, please switch with another acolyte and contact our office with the change. Thanks!*



### Cougarwear

This year PTL is testing a new Spirit Wear Company. \*Orders can be placed anytime! No more waiting on the PTL to organize a sale. \*The PTL no longer has to support minimum orders for each item to place an order. \*Shipping is direct to your home and usually an item arrives in 2 weeks or less from the time of the order (all items are printed within a few days of ordering here in the US!) \*Watch the site for sales and team up with another parent to get free shipping! \*Shirts for sports are now available on the site as well!! Check out all the tabs at the top of the page for your order needs!! [www.1stplace.sale/30121](http://www.1stplace.sale/30121)

### The Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain Coordinator is Vickie Heller. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please call her at 618/521-7417. Please call the church office if you would like to add someone to our worship prayers. *Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

### Set Up Direct Payments Thru ACH

Routine payments to St. John's can be made by direct electronic withdrawal for offerings, school lunches, preschool tuition, and daycare securely from the bank account you designate at either bi-weekly or monthly intervals. Fill out a form in the school office and select each payment account you want automatically withdrawn. It is free. You can make changes or cancel any time. If there are insufficient funds in the account at the time of payment, no funds will be withdrawn. You will be notified. We hope this option offers convenience to users and greater efficiency for our funding. If you feel more comfortable making payments by cash/check, please do!

### LCMS Foundation

Who will be best blest by gifts from my estate?

Have you ever been asked to participate in a Christmas gift collection drive, to give gifts to a cause that someone else will distribute? Chances are, you will never directly meet the people receiving the gift. While there is no arguing with the value of these gifts, it can feel like something is missing. The giving can become more of a transaction or a checkmark rather than heart-felt, warm giving of God's good things. If you are participating in one of these collections this year, go on websites, read literature, volunteer, striving to become heart-connected to the giving.

Estate gifts given without heart-connection rob the giver of the joy God means for us to enjoy in the giving. Instead of leaving estate gifts to family to be discovered

when the will is read someday, gather your family together and openly share with them the blessings you hope these future gifts will bring.

Think also of the gifts you plan to give to ministry. Don't wait for the ministry to find out about the gift until your will is read. Set up a meeting to discuss your gift with the pastor or executive leader and talk about what you hope the gift will accomplish in ministry. Ask for that ministry leader to pray with you about this gift.

With some work and careful planning and communication, you can bring the joy of giving into your life as you disperse God's gifts to the family you love and the ministries you care about the most. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you discover this godly joy. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or [Scott.Radden@lfnd.org](mailto:Scott.Radden@lfnd.org) for more information.

### **What Is A Steward?** *From LCMS Stewardship*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is

never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Romans 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to get more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. Money is God's gift to us to serve us and others, not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.



## December Church and School Calendar

### Wednesday, December 1-

8:30 a.m. Third Grade Christmas Service in the new gym  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
3:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades Public School Confirmation (school)  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service at church

### Thursday, December 2-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin  
5:00 p.m. Schnepel/Foster wedding rehearsal  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony  
6:00 p.m. Boys' Basketball (ABC) at home vs. Steeleville

### Friday, December 3- *Boys' C Team Basketball tourney at RBC Girls' A team Basketball tourney at Edwardsville*

8:30 a.m. Pre-School Christmas Service in the new gym  
Jane Moeller Visitation (10 a.m.) & Funeral (11 a.m.) at church

### Saturday, December 4-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall  
1:00 p.m. Taylor Schnepel/Riley Foster wedding at church  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, December 5-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes at school  
9:30 a.m. Adult (FH&SL) and Youth (basement) Bible Classes  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service  
Noon Senior Youth gathering in the church basement lounge  
12:30 p.m. Decorating the church for Christmas

### Monday, December 6-

6:00 p.m. Boys' Basketball (AC) at home vs. St. Mary's  
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

### Tuesday, December 7-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at West Point  
6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in school library  
6 p.m. Evening Guild Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Girls' Basketball (AC) at home vs. St. John-Chester

### Wednesday, December 8-

8:30 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service in the new gym  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
3:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Public School Confirmation (school)  
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service at church

### Thursday, December 9-

3:00 p.m. Holy Communion service at church  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony  
6:00 p.m. Men's Club Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

### Friday, Dec. 10- *C Team tourneys: Boys (RBC); Girls (RBL)*

8:30 a.m. Kindergarten Christmas Service in the new gym  
Saturday, December 11- 9:00 a.m. Elder baskets delivered

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

### SUNDAY, December 12- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes at the school  
9:30 a.m. Adult (FH/SL) and Youth (basement) Bible Classes  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### Monday, December 13-

6:00 p.m. Girls' Basketball (AB) at Red Bud Elementary  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

### Tuesday, December 14-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center  
6:00 p.m. Boys' Basketball (AB) at St. John in Chester

### Wednesday, December 15-

8:30 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service in the new gym  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
3:30-4:30 p.m. 6-8<sup>th</sup> Public School Confirmation at school  
7:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service at church

### Thursday, December 16-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin  
5:30 p.m. Girls' Basketball (AB) home vs TSJ/ILS in Nashville  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

### Friday, December 17-

8:30 a.m. First Grade Christmas Service in the new gym

### Saturday, December 18-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, December 19-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes at school  
9:30 a.m. Adult (FH/SL) and Youth (basement) Bible Classes  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

### Monday, December 20-

8:30 a.m. Second Grade Christmas Service in the new gym  
5:30 p.m. Girls' Basketball (AC) at SPPCS in Waterloo  
6:00 p.m. Boys' Basketball (AB) at home vs. Marissa  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room  
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, December 21-

8:30 a.m. 6-8 Grades Christmas Service at church (in-person)  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
1:45 p.m. Early school dismissal

7:00 p.m. 6-8 Grades Christmas Service at church (in-person)

### Wednesday, December 22- *No school thru January 3*

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

### Friday, December 24- *Office Closed!*

3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion services  
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight service

### Saturday, December 25- *Christ the Savior Is Born!*

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion Service (*No 5 p.m. service*)

### SUNDAY, December 26-

**9:00 a.m. Divine Service** (No Sunday School or Bible classes)

### Monday, December 27- *Pastor on vacation today*

6:30 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' meeting in school library

### Tuesday, December 30-

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Garden Place

### Friday, December 31- *Office Closed*

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service

### Saturday, January 1, 2022-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, January 2, 2022-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday School classes at school

9:30 a.m. Adult (FH&SL) and Youth (basement) Bible Classes

10:30 a.m. Divine Service