

# *The Epistle*

## **JULY 2022**

**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](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org)**

**[www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://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 the Principal's Pen- Closing thoughts**

Who knew when I was 5 years old and boarded my first school bus, a "56 Chevy" turquoise green station wagon, for my first day of school in a one room school house in Venedy, Illinois, in 1960, that I would still be going to school in 2022! The buildings have changed and my duties within those buildings have changed but when a person spends 62 years in school you know they love being there! I have been so blessed by all my years in school. I was taught by great teachers, worked with great teachers and principals, taught great students and worked with wonderful parents. All of them have been a blessing to me!

My first teaching position was for St. John Lutheran Church in Baldwin, as their teacher at Trinity, Prairie. Bruce and I were just married a few short weeks before school started in my classroom at Trinity, Prairie, as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. There were many nights I studied diligently to prepare myself for the next day's lessons. My years there were enriching in many ways as I started my teaching career and learned the family connections of all my students.

When our son Jonathan was born in 1983, Baldwin and Prairie dissolved their affiliation. I then was called to

St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Red Bud. I was happy to begin teaching here as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I was asked to serve as Principal in 1992 and remember saying I would try it for a year to see how it went. That was a few years ago so I guess you could say it went well enough to continue in this position. In 1992 we had an enrollment of 98, which was down from previous years. Our mission and goal was to build the school. We did this by adding Preschool and Kindergarten classes. With increased enrollment, the building became too small so we had a building addition in 2001. With this addition we added a Daycare room. It wasn't long before the building needed to adjust for increased enrollment again, so classrooms shifted and we continued to grow. By 2014, we started another school addition to accommodate the added enrollment. What a blessing it has been!

I was always told that to be successful, associate with positive successful people. You have all been positive influences in my life and I thank you all for being here for me as we made this journey for our school. I have had so many people send cards and messages in the past several months; I am so honored in their words and gifts. I thank all the men and women in leadership positions from Baldwin, Prairie and Red Bud that had faith and trust in me to help lead, these many sainted people and you have made a positive impact on my life. I would be remiss not to mention Bruce and my family, I could not have moved forward without your love and encouragement. Bruce was my sounding board who listened to all my concerns and offered sound advice on how to handle the situation. I love and thank him for this.

The future is bright for St. John's. God leads us through His word and sacraments as we work together in a faith family. I continue to be proud of the students who graduate from St. John's and do well in high school and beyond.

Retirement plans will include spending time with my family, working in the garden, traveling and hopefully volunteering in different ways. I hope to continue to serve this congregation as best I can without being in the way. It is hard to leave the people you love and the work you love without serving in some way in the future.

I have truly been blessed by God and the people of St. John's congregation, I could not have asked for greater people to work with, teach and serve. It has been my privilege and honor to serve here for all these years. May I say it only seems like five minutes..... of the foretaste to come in our heavenly kingdom! The best is yet to come as we gather in our heavenly home when we are called to be with Jesus. All Glory be to God!

*God's blessings to you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider*

## Your Pastors' Ponderings

### *Thirty-Second Thoughts*

Congratulations to Mrs. Schneider on her many years of service to our Lord and His church as a teacher and principal at Trinity in Prairie and here at St. John's in Red Bud. It has been an honor and privilege to serve here with her. Her final words to us deserved the front page for this month's newsletter.

Our family will travel for vacation from July 16-22 in Manistee, Michigan. This is on the shore of Lake Michigan. We are excited about the news that our daughter Chelsea and her husband Shane are expecting a baby on or around December 8. This will be our long-awaited first grandchild.

Speaking of the blessing of birth, later in the newsletter is an article from our synodical president, Rev. Matthew Harrison, about the *Dobbs v. Jackson* Supreme Court decision which, according to our Constitution, rightly returns the legality of abortion to the individual states. The national news coverage about this has been one-sided. The rhetoric against this has been over the top ridiculous. May God forgive our sins against His gift of life and guide us in how best to protect and provide for the miracle that is conception, pregnancy and the birth of a child.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Summer is officially here. Although, we knew this from the scorching heat and dry conditions. Thankfully, as I type this article, it appears there is some relief in sight. This week is supposed to be slightly cooler with some rain coming as well. We thank God for all He provides us with remember that it is all according to His plan.

Speaking of His plan, I just realized the other day that I will celebrate my 1-year anniversary in ministry on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Wow, how time flies! It is amazing how God has directed my family and me. I never would have dreamed that I would be a pastor. As I look back on where I was and where I have come, what an amazing journey it has been. It is mind-blowing to look back and see times in this journey where I see God's hand was at work. To see His hand at work changing the direction of not just my life, but that of my family as well.

Going to the seminary was a scary experience, knowing that in four short years I would be placed as a pastor in a congregation. However, it's also a safety zone because you are among others going through similar experiences. There are good times. There are bad times. There are times when the tears fall due to a fear of failure

or the fear of the unknown. There are times of struggling to understand what's happening. Then the day arrives, the one for which you have worked so hard, the day when you find out to which congregation and to what city you will be sent to be their pastor delivering them God's Word. All of a sudden you feel like you no longer want to receive a call. You want to stay in your safety net. You may not feel as if you are ready. However, it is too late. Your time has come to leave the nest, to spread your wings and fly.

It is hard to explain the mix of emotions that one goes through. Suddenly you find yourself dealing with a bunch of new emotions and questions. What will it be like? Am I ready? Will they accept me? Will I be good enough? Then you reach your placement parish and realize that One greater than you is at work in all of this that God has you in His plan. He is in control and He knows what He is doing.

God has placed me here at St. John, Baldwin as their pastor and here at St. John's, Red Bud, as your associate pastor. God has blessed me beyond what I could ever imagine. I thank every one of you for being welcoming, loving, and accepting of my family and myself over this past year. I could not imagine a better place for me to be than right here with all of you.

*God's blessings, Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor*

## We Bid a Fond Farewell

June 6 Transfer out of Ginger Nagel, Kaleb Barriger, Levi Nagel and Isabella Nagel to The Way in Columbia, IL

## Midweek Bible Classes

Our Wednesday evening midweek Bible class on 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings continues during June. Our Wednesday Morning Women (Esther) and Thursday morning (Matthew) classes remain in session this month. The Thursday morning class has moved its time to 8-9 a.m.

Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on the second and fourth Saturdays (9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) this month at 7 a.m. We are studying the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living."

## Notes On School Information

Book Night/Registration for school families will take place on July 6 from 3-7 pm. Hope to see you there!

Faculty will attend the Day of Spiritual Renewal Aug. 4.

The 2022-2023 school year theme is "Joyful in the Field."

The first day of class for the students will be Aug. 16 with dismissal at 1:44 pm. Buses will run and lunch will be served that day. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

**A Musical Moment- Summer Music Opportunities**

Even though the summer brings a temporary pause to the regular choir and bell choir seasons, there are still plenty of opportunities to serve God and enhance the weekend worship services with gifts of music!

Once again, I'm inviting anyone who enjoys singing to take part in our "Summer Singers" group! (Even if it's just for one Sunday.) You do not have to be a regular choir member to participate! We will sing for the following worship services: Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> (10:30 AM), Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> (8:00 AM), and Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (8:00 AM). We will meet a half an hour before each service to practice the song. The songs we sing will be fairly simple, most likely in unison, but we can add some part-singing if there is interest. Kids and youth are welcome to come sing too!!

In addition to the Summer Singers, I'm inviting anyone with musical talent to share their gifts with the congregation during worship this summer! If you are interested, contact me and we can set something up! Students who played/sang at the Talent Show and Christmas services, would you be interested in playing/singing during a regular worship weekend worship service, too?

If you are interested in serving the congregation musically in any way during the summer months, please let me know! *Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

**Senior Youth**

We leave bright and early (5 a.m.) on Thursday, July 7 for the LCMS National Youth Gathering at the George Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. "In All Things" is based on Colossians 1:15-20. Events will be live-streamed on the [lcmsgathering.com](http://lcmsgathering.com) website for parents back home to watch. Our caravan of vans will return to Red Bud the morning of Thursday, July 14.

The LCMS website provides this description: *The Gathering is more than the five days of the event. The preparation process for the Gathering brings together young people and supportive adults to encourage each other in their baptismal identity. The Gathering provides young people a vision for the vastness of Christ's Church and equips them for vocational service as they continue their walk with Jesus.*

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.

God's blessings to you! *Terry and Susie Harms*

**Worship Greeters**

Sat. July 2 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  
Sun. July 3 8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn  
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

Sat. July 9 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  
Sun. July 10 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer  
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert

Sat. July 16 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  
Sun. July 17 8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele  
10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt

Sat. July 23 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  
Sun. July 24 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold  
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel

Sat. July 30 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  
Sun. July 31 8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn  
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

**Thank You!**

*Dear St. John's members,* "Thank you very much for the money given to me to help pay for my Lutheran education. This gives me the ability to pay for the Lutheran learning experience that I receive at Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School. Your help is greatly appreciated!"  
*Sincerely, Christine Liefer*

(This tuition assistance money comes from funds supervised by St. John's Estate Fund Committee.)



*Crystal Deterding leads the Bible story time in the church sanctuary at Vacation Bible School.*

## **From Your Director of Christian Education**

*"For one who has died has been set free from sin... We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him (Romans 6:7, 9). The United States of America will celebrate 246 years of freedom on July 4. The freedom Christ won for us with His death on the cross has earned us an eternal freedom from sin, death, and the devil.*



*Children sing during the opening of Vacation Bible School*

The VBS held in June was a success thanks to so many helpers, organizers, and attendees. A complete report will be given at the Voter's meeting later this month. I am offering a Lego/STEM camp for those students who will be entering grades two through the fourth grade. This will be held July 18-22 from 9-10:30 a.m. It is limited to the first 30 students that register. The \$10 cost will go towards snacks and batteries. Please rsvp to 618-282-2958. Summer Sunday school continues from the library at school from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

I will be out of town during the month of July for a family vacation, then attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston as an adult volunteer leader, then we will move Bryce to Mattoon, and to end the month Diana and I will celebrate our 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

*God bless our native land: firm may she ever stand through storm and night. When the wild tempest rave, Ruler of wind and wave, Do thou our country save by Thy great might. (LSB 965)*

*Mr. Bill Becker, Director of Christian Education*

### **July Servers**

Flowers: Shawn DeRousse and Danette Miller  
Parameters: Irma Birkner Cloths: Lynn Langrehr



*Students join in singing during the VBS Closing Service.*

### **Parent-Teacher League Support**

The officers of the Parent-Teacher League along with Justin Palm and Deitt Schneider met recently to disburse money from the PTL treasury. It was decided to use the money in the following ways:

\$40,000 to debt reduction for St. John's Lutheran Church and School

\$35,000 to the new pavilion site preparation and the playground

\$2,000 to the library

\$1,950 to teachers for classroom use

\$4,000 for new entrance rugs, 10 8ft. white tables and misc. items for school

Total money disbursed \$82,950.

Thank you to them and thank you to all who have supported the PTL in any fundraising which has taken place throughout the past year!

### **Preschool/Kindergarten Registration**

The web address for Kindergarten Registration is <https://forms.gle/XzTLYhhTWB8Uy6KU7>.

The web address for Preschool Registration is <https://forms.gle/CrPsj1hnhshM6Y74M9>.

### **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, The Resurrection in Revelation, 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.

### Evening Guild News

The Evening Guild does not meet in July.

Register to attend the Southern Illinois District LWML Convention at Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School in Evansville on September 16 – 17. There still is time for all guests to send their registration form with payment to Marie Voges. Registration forms are in the church entrance or go to [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org) under convention news to print.

Looking for YWRs: We are looking for Young Woman Representatives (YWR) from St. John's congregation, ages 22 – 35, to assist at the LWML SID Convention on September 16 or 17, 2022. If you are interested in being a YWR, please text Sharon at 618-660-7803.

The LWML Quarterly Summer edition is ready for pick up. It is an interesting read!!! Look on the tables in the church entrance. Convention registration forms are underneath the Quarterlies.

**Quilting** schedule for July is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the quilting room of the Fellowship Hall.

**Baldwin Sight Center:** Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin. Assembly dates for July are the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Phone Mary Ann Wegener (618-282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

### Music CDs Available

St. John's member Joan Voges offers 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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).

### An Invitation for Your Vacation

Greetings from Peace Lutheran Church LCMS Camdenton, Missouri, located near the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Because we are a primary vacation destination of the Midwest, we see thousands of visitors come to enjoy the many attractions, sites, and activities that are offered throughout the year. If you are planning a visit to the Lake and are looking for a church to attend, we invite you to join us at Peace. Service of Word and Sacrament begins at 9 a.m. Then join us in fellowship with coffee and pastries.

We are located 9 miles north of Camdenton on Hwy 5, ½ mile north of the junction of Highways 5 & 7 or about 7 miles south of Sunrise Beach. (9307 N. State Hwy 5 at Greenview). You will be warmly welcomed! We are on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranchurhcamdenton>. All are welcome at the foot of the cross! God's blessings, Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

### From LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Today (June 24) is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. "*Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; Roe and Casey are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives*" (SCOTUS, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, 1).

"[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (Luke 1:52).

## *Happy Birthday America!*

Today is also the Church's feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord's unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord "has visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord's hand "we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us" (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God's gift of the one He sent to "go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins" (Luke 1:76-77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death" (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus' call, "repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don't be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God's love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though *Roe v. Wade* has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today's decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, President, The LC—MS

### **LCMS Foundation**

Helen was married for fifty-two years. Her husband Ralph was called home last year. This year, responding to her attorney, Helen finally made an appointment to meet with her attorney to review her will, which she had created twenty-five years ago with her husband. Before going to the attorney, Helen met with her LCMS Gift Planning Counselor to consider her charitable gifting plan. She was shocked to find gifts she planned from her estate long ago were no longer appropriate. One gift was to a women's shelter sponsored by her congregation that closed just last year. One was to support a specific missionary who had served in Asia for fifty years but had retired seven years ago. One gift was designated for a ministry that she had never heard about. She said to the Gift Planning Counselor, "I am not sure if I should put a plan in place again because it might get outdated."

The counselor pointed out two things. The gift to the missionary had a definite expiration date to it. Every missionary's service will come to an end at some time. A better gift would have designated the ministry that was placing the missionary. Beyond that, the counselor emphasized that a ministry gifting plan is based on the best plan for that current moment in time. It requires regular review, at least every five years, to make sure that it is keeping up with changes. Her fears could be addressed by simply committing to this regular review. Helen felt better.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think through appropriate ministry gifts that are not as prone to having an expiration date. They can also regularly review your plan, making sure it is up to date. Contact Scott Radden, Gift Planning Counselor, at (618) 977-4049 or [Scott.Radden@lfnd.org](mailto:Scott.Radden@lfnd.org) for more information.

**What Is A Steward?** *From LCMS Stewardship*  
**New Testament Standard Giving**

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also. Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him. This rich, young ruler went away sad. He was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works. But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

We first answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?” The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that He will choose, to make His name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set His name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your

hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you. At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. 16:1–2), proportionally (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1–2; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:12), and generously (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:20) of our first fruits (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1–2; Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9; Leviticus 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:2), earnestness (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:7), cheerfulness (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7), and love (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same. If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.



***Free to Worship our Triune God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit!***

### Acolyte Schedule

Sat. July 2	5 p.m. Luke Quintin
Sun. July 3	8 a.m. Austin Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Colin Korando
Sat. July 9	5 p.m. Jack Crafton
Sun. July 10	8 a.m. Joey Biffar 10:30 a.m. Milla Neff
Sat. July 16	5 p.m. Emma Kiefer
Sun. July 17	8 a.m. Jackson Muench 10:30 a.m. Olivia Valleroy
Sat. July 23	5 p.m. MaKenna Harless
Sun. July 24	8 a.m. Brody Stellhorn 10:30 a.m. Kadence Koen
Sat. July 30	5 p.m. Lucas McCarthy
Sun. July 31	8 a.m. Blayton Sutton 10:30 a.m. Macie Brown

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

### July Church and School Calendar

Friday, July 1-

6:00 p.m. Wedding rehearsal for Andrew Quinn/Gloria Guo

Saturday, July 2-

11:00 a.m. Wedding of Andrew Quinn and Gloria Guo

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

SUNDAY, July 3- No Summer Sunday School today

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

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, July 4-

*Happy Birthday, USA! Federal Holiday; Office closed*

Tuesday, July 5-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 6-

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

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

3-7 p.m. School Registration in the new gym lobby

7:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)

Thursday, July 7-

6:00 a.m. NYG attendees leave from school parking lot

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

Saturday, July 9-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the FH (Proverbs)

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 10-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the school library

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

6:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation meeting in the FH

Tuesday, July 12-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center

Wednesday, July 13-

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

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)

Thursday, July 14- Youth Gathering attendees return

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

Saturday, July 16- Pastor Nebel on vacation thru the 22nd

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

SUNDAY, July 17-

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the school library

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, July 18-

9-10:30 a.m. Lego/Stem Camp in our school's science lab

7:00 p.m. Church Council meets in the school library

Tuesday, July 19-

9-10:30 a.m. Lego/Stem Camp in our school's science lab

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 20-

9-10:30 a.m. Lego/Stem Camp in our school's science lab

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

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 21-

9-10:30 a.m. Lego/Stem Camp in our school's science lab

Friday, July 22-

9-10:30 a.m. Lego/Stem Camp in our school's science lab

Saturday, July 23-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 24-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the school library

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Tuesday, July 26-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

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

Wednesday, July 27-

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

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Voters Assembly meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 28-

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

Saturday, July 30-

9 a.m. Pastor Nebel at S. Illinois District Board of Directors

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

SUNDAY, July 31-

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the school library

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion