

The Epistle

SEPTEMBER 2023

**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

Mr. Justin Palm, Principal

Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education

Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director

From Lutheran Hour Ministries

"Going Too Far?" by Dr. Kari Vo

Matthew 16:21-23 - From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and He said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

What a temptation that must have been to Jesus! He's just had this great moment when Peter recognizes Him for who He truly is: "The Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16b). And now Peter wants Him to avoid the path to the cross. How could he get things so right and then so wrong?

Because it's no good at all if Jesus' followers know who He is but refuse to agree with what He's doing. Jesus came here for a purpose: to lay down His life for the sake of the whole human race, so that we could be forgiven, rescued, and made children of God. That meant going to the cross. That meant suffering, death, and resurrection.

That road would be hard enough to walk. The last thing Jesus needed on top of that was someone He loved whispering the devil's suggestions in His ear. And so Jesus pushed back, pretty violently, too. He called Peter Satan! You don't get much worse than that. Every time I read it I can't help seeing Peter's shocked face. Did Jesus have to be so extreme about it? Did He go too far?

But the measure of Jesus' pushback is the measure of His love for you and for me. He will let nothing, not even a dear disciple, stand in the way of rescuing us. It's the whole reason He came. Nothing and nobody is going to stop Him from saving us—from bringing us home again, safe and sound, to God the Father. Jesus will do whatever He has to so that we will live. That's how much He loves you. **WE PRAY:** Lord Jesus, thank You for Your commitment to saving me. Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

St. John's has been blessed to have welcomed 16 baptisms so far in 2023 with two more scheduled and at least another two more expected. What a wonderful occasion for a family of faith to celebrate, the entry of a new child of God into Christ's now and forever kingdom!

A recent issue of *Lutheran Quarterly* contained a review of a 2021 book, To Baptize or Not to Baptize, by Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This looked interesting enough for me to order (from Amazon, using bonus points, no cash spent!), but I questioned whether it was going to be very helpful. From its introduction: "This book addresses the reader as a pastor in a congregational setting who regularly baptizes and has to make judgment calls about baptism."

There are blessings to low expectations. The first part of the book is a good review of our Lutheran teaching and practice of Holy Baptism. Following that the majority of this book contains case studies, both real and hypothetical, of when a baptism should be performed and when one should be performed.

I want to share with you in this space over the next few months selections from the Baptismal Theology portion of this book as a review of this most important gift of our Triune God to us. The theology of baptism espoused in this book accepts infant baptism. The common conviction held by churches that do so is that baptism is primarily God's action upon a person. God chooses people before people choose God (gospel). This is in distinction from those churches where baptism is a human act of obedience in response to God's command (law).

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

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By the time this month's newsletter reaches you, students, teachers, etc. will have returned and started the 2023-2024 school year. This can be a stressful time for many. Lesson plans need to be made. A new routine needs to be established for the kids. It's a good time to see friends we may not have seen in a while. It's a hard time for a new student being in a new school. Let us also not forget that some of these children need friends. Someone to help them adjust to their new school and help them find where they are going.

In last month's newsletter, I placed a challenge before us. I suggested that as we started the new school year that we all look for the positives in life. Much can change by changing our way of thinking. Don't be concerned about others, we should only be concerned about ourselves and hope that others will follow. So, how are you doing on this challenge? Have you added time with God to your daily or weekly schedule? Are you sticking with it? Have you tried but failed and just gave up? Don't be discouraged. Change is difficult and it can take time to change. DON'T GIVE UP!!! Giving up is easy. Instead, choose the tougher, although maybe scarier, road up that mountain. Stick to your new routine no matter what. There will always be triumphs and setbacks. Keep your eyes focused on Christ and use the triumphs as motivation to keep moving forward.

Don't be afraid to ask your pastor(s) for support or advice. They are here to help you in whatever way possible. Feel free to give me a call, email, or stop by the office and let me know how things are going. Successes or failures.

I ask that you keep all students, teachers, etc. in your prayers. Pray for their health and safety during this new school year. Pray that everyone adjusts quickly and seamlessly to their new routine. Pray that everyone has an enjoyable and successful school year. Most importantly, let us give thanks to our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, and all the selfless sacrifice He endured for every one of us who believe and trust in Him. To God be all the glory and honor forever and ever.

God's blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

September Servers

Flowers: Cindy Ebers and Lisa Quinn

Paraments: Carol Turner Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Sunday School Information

Sunday, September 3, 9:30 a.m. All Ages Sunday School and Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall w/ drinks & snacks

A Musical Moment from our Director of Parish Music

September is one of my favorite times of the year! This is when the Choir and Bell Choir begin practices for the 2023-2024 season! Listen for both to "sing out" and "ring out" in our weekend worship services! Both play an average of 2-3 services per month.

Our Choir is always looking for more singers! We will start on Monday, September 11th at 7 p.m. in the school music room. The Choir mostly sings at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday services. However, on Sunday, October 1st we will sing at the 10:30 a.m. service instead. Some of the special services we will sing at this year include Reformation (October 29th), Thanksgiving Day (9 a.m., November 23rd), and Christmas Day (9 a.m. service). Any new and returning members are welcome and appreciated!!
In Christ, *Mrs. Lindsey Hudak*

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

- August 7 Transfer in of Chad Buch and baptized sons Bennett and Cooper from Trinity Lutheran Church-Prairie
- August 19 Baptism of Brynlee Clare Gramenz
- August 20 Baptism of Elise Kinsley Uffelmann

We Bid a Fond Farewell

- August ? Death of Alice Smith
- August 18 Death of Floyd Wolter

Evening Guild News

St. John's Evening Guild is sponsoring an event for all women of St. John's on Tuesday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m. Each guild member is to bring a dish for our potluck dinner. Hostesses will be Jeanne Stamm, chairman, Cindy Steele, Marie Voges, and Mary Ann Wegener. Our special guest speaker will be Janel Kassing. Janel was the state delegate representing the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education in Malaysia earlier this year.

Our Southern Illinois District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Retreat will be at Mariner's Village Resort at Carlyle Lake on Saturday, September 30. Registration will be at 9 a.m. with a cost of \$15. (Bring a sack lunch.) You can find a registration form at the SID LWML website www.sidlwml.org

The Fall LWML Quarterly magazine is in the church entrance for you to pick up.

Men's Club

Our St. John's Men's Club gathering for September will be on the 14th at 7p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will view the next installment of the "Nurturing Your Faith" Bible Study series from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

From Your Director of Christian Education

Blessed month of September! My favorite season of the year begins this month! I love the beauty of God's creation especially on a cool, crisp autumn morning!

The school year is off and running. The first weeks are finishing up and I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of the school year has in store. Events planned for this month include class meetings for the 8th grade trip planning for grades five through eight on September 18 at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, & 7:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. A crafting event with Jo Ellner is being planned for Thursday, September 28. The non-crafters are welcome to join me in a friendly game of euchre. Stay tuned for more information! Grandparent/Special Guest Day is being planned for Friday, Sept. 22. Watch for more information on this. Pastor Nebel, Pastor Nowak, and I will host the Acolyte training and pizza party for all students in grades six through eight on Wednesday, Sept. 27. Students will be signing up for the service that the family generally attends to serve in this way. Each Sunday I will host the High School Bible class in my classroom, 103 at 9:30 a.m.

The Senior Youth will continue meeting on the second Sunday of each month. On September 10 we will gather and enjoy a barbecue. Please let me know the addresses of those young adults who are enrolled in college for this school year. We will send them a little package from their home church and youth group!

The Junior Youth will go to Eckert's Bonfire and Fun Farm at 2719 Eckert Orchard Lane in Millstadt on Friday, September 15th from 5–9 p.m. We will meet in the school parking lot at 5 p.m. If you would prefer to meet us there that is fine too! Admission - \$10 if you buy tickets online ahead of time. Here is the link if you want to do it on your own or if you want to give me the money, I can purchase the tickets online <https://millstadt.eckerts.com/#/event-details/millstadt-farm-admission-tickets-2023> (make sure you are choosing the date of 9/15. We will be at bonfire site #6 – with hot dogs, chips, and smore fixings provided. Included in admission: petting zoo, carnival rides, pig races, corn trail, wagon train, and haunted hayride.

The Sunday School teachers will gather at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25 in the school's library for our monthly meeting.

God's richest blessings in the month ahead!

DCE Bill Becker

Casey's Rewards

Cash for Classrooms- When you shop at Casey's using its rewards program you can donate your points to our St. John's school. Thank you!



St. John's Sunday school staff held Rally Day on Sept. 20 to kick off the new year of Christian Education. Here DCE Bill Becker leads the students in an opening devotion.

Games were held outside and snacks were served.

From the Principal's Pen

School is off to a good start as we enter the third week already! Time flies when you are having fun! It is great to be back in our routine with classes being in full swing, chapel on Wednesdays for 3-8 grade and on Friday for daycare to 2nd grade, and sports.

We welcome new families into our school along with all returning students. We have always recognized our PreSchool and Kindergarten students but also welcome five new students. The list of students is as follows: Three-Year-old Preschool- Chloe Conway, Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Brie Kern, Theodore Koerber, Nolan Liefer, Liam Mastrantuono, Waylon McLean, Noah Mueth, Rose Sachtleben, Hailey Schlueter, Clark Thien, and Henry Veath. Four-Year-old Preschool- Bennett Buch, Witten Cheek, Kaden Ehler, Demi Grohmann, Colton Gully, Katharina Hess, Reagan Hewitty, Benjamin Langrehr, Everett Liefer, Karlyn Meier, Dawson Nichols, Lyvia Okunola, Charlotte Salger, Eliza Schrader, Brayden Seiber, Victoria Stolte, Case Ufflemann, and Kolby Young. Kindergarten- Waylon Ebers, Huxton Grohmann, Brooke Horrell, Savanna Langrehr, Owen Prange, Brynlee Schaefer, Bently Valentine, and Kayleigh Young. 2nd Grade- Ella Herriman. 5th Grade- Kade Young. 7th Grade- Cartr Hartmann and Colby Hartmann. The breakdown by grade is as follows: PreK 3-13, PreK 4-18, K-8, 1st-16, 2nd-13, 3rd -20, 4th -12, 5th -23, 6th -22, 7th -12, and 8th -12. Our enrollment for PreK-8th is 170 and K-8 is 139. Our Daycare has 87 more students that are not included in our Preschool number so we have a total of 257 students hearing the good news of Jesus Christ on a daily basis! We give thanks for all of our children and pray for God's blessings to be upon them throughout our year.

Before the school even started I was already indebted to the pastors, teachers, staff, and recent retirees here at St. John's who have all helped to make the Southern Illinois District (SID) Day of Spiritual Renewal on August 10, which we hosted, a success. All of these individuals in one capacity or many helped to get our school in pristine shape for the event. We were able to successfully feed, spiritually and physically, around 230 workers from churches and school throughout the SID.

On August 13, the congregation of St. John's Lutheran recognized workers for years of service to St. John's Lutheran Church and School and years of service to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The following people were given a certificate and gift certificate from the congregation presented by elder Gerald Hanebutt: Nancy Whelan- 5 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Christy Deterding- 10 years to St. John's Lutheran Daycare, Lindsey Hudak- 15 Years of Service to St. John's Lutheran School/Church and the LCMS, Amanda Falkenhain- 20 years to St. John's Lutheran Daycare, William Becker- 25 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Cindy Steele- 30 years to St. John's Lutheran School, and Rebekah Liefer- 30 years to the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Not pictured is Mrs. Cindy Steele.



Looking ahead we have a busy month with Softball, Baseball and Cross Country. The teachers will attend the Lutheran Elementary School Association workshop on September 1 in St. Louis. We will not have school on September 4 in observance of Labor Day. Our first Parent Teacher League meeting is on September 12 at 7 p.m. Palmer music will begin on September 6; students may still sign up if you are interested in playing an instrument. September 22nd is Grandparents Day. There will be an early dismissal day (no lunch served and no after-school care). Our sixth grade class will enjoy "Outdoor Education" at Camp Wartburg on September 25 and 26th. The eighth grade class will visit the Career Center of Southern Illinois for a Technical Career Day on Friday September 29.

Our school has returned to normal pre-Covid activities and will be hosting our fall festival, in person Christmas services, and many more activities. Our teachers have already been working hard to assure that Grandparents Day will happen and we look forward to again having many volunteers in our school during the day and at events. Our "Parent-Teacher League" (PTL), which gives so many gifts to our students and staff, is looking for volunteers. If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact the school office at 618-282-3873.

A big thank you to our Board of Trustees and all the volunteers who helped complete projects at school this summer. The big job was and still is the replacement of our Wifi system which will be purchased from PTL Dinner Auction funds. Other jobs that were completed to beautify the school were; repainting of the parking lot lines at school, leveling of baseball and softball fields, organized care of landscaping at the school, mulch dispersal for the playground, completion of the outdoor classroom/pavilion, and the restoration of our new kindergarten, preschool, and toddler daycare rooms. We are thankful to all the workers who have given of their time to see these jobs through to completion.

Staffing for our school looks different this year as Mrs. Heather Nowak replaces Mrs. Cindy Steele as our preschool teacher. Ms. Amanda Ruhmann has started an Art Program from 4th to 8th grade. Mrs. Kristen Sachtleben joins Mrs. Schnepel, Mrs. Whelan, Mr. Becker, and myself as we work together to best serve the junior high school students. We were blessed to fill all needed positions but look forward to any information that could help locate a teacher wanting to teach science at the junior high school level. *God bless you, Mr. Justin Palm*

School Athletics Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament will be held on Saturday, September 16th at North County Country Club. As in the past the tournament will be a four-person scramble with a 9 a.m. start. If you are interested in playing, registration forms are available in the school office. The registration deadline is September 10th. All proceeds will benefit our school athletic department. If you have any questions, please contact Quent Stenzel at 618-282-4661.

Attention Coffee Drinkers

We are part of Community Coffee's program, "Cash for Schools." Clipping the proof of purchase off packages of ground coffee and/or K cups earns our school rewards. You can drop off proof of purchases at the school office. Thank you for using this program to benefit our school.

Senior Youth

St. John's Senior Youth will have their next meeting with a BBQ on Sunday, September 10 at noon.

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 a lovely storage box. *Stephanie & Kirk Liefer*

Junior Youth

Eckert's Bonfire and Fun Farm
2719 Eckert Orchard Lane, Millstadt
Friday, September 15th 5 – 9 p.m.

- Meet in the school parking lot at 5 p.m. If you would prefer to meet us there that is fine too!
- Admission - \$10 if you buy tickets online ahead of time. If you want to do it on your own or if you want to give me the money, I can purchase the tickets online at <https://millstadt.eckerts.com/#/event-details/millstadt-farm-admission-tickets-2023> (choose the date of 9/15)
- We will be at bonfire site #6 – I will bring hot dogs, chips, and smore fixings
- Included in admission: Petting Zoo, carnival rides, pig races, corn trail, wagon train, and haunted hayride

Special Presentation

Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

All women and guests of St. John's Lutheran Church are invited to a "Taste of Malaysia" in the Fellowship Hall. A potluck meal will be served. Janel Kassing will share her experiences in Malaysia as the Illinois Delegate to the HCE Triennial Associated Country Women of the World Conference. From the greetings with Queen Azizah of Malaysia to her encounters with women from all over the world, Janel's presentation will be a delightful evening of fun and Christian fellowship.

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 Fellowship Hall 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 Fellowship Hall.

***For All the Saints Who
From Their Labors Rest!***

Older Adult Lutheran Heritage Bus Trip

On Tuesday, October 3, seniors will have the opportunity to travel on a Coach Bus (Huskey-Trailways) to Perry County, Missouri, and learn about Lutheran immigration from Germany to America. At 7 am, the bus will pick up passengers at St. Paul Lutheran Church-Hamel, 7:45 am, the Water Tower at St. Clair Square in Fairview Heights, and 8:30 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbia. While traveling to Frohna and Altenburg, Missouri, Mr. Bob Polansky, Executive Director of Camp Wartburg, will lead us in Bible Study. The first stop will be at the Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum, Altenberg, which was constructed in 2005. The Museum interprets the 1838-39 Lutheran immigration from Germany to Perry County, MO, including the history of the seven original colonies that were established here. Besides the Museum you could take a short walk and tour the 1839 Log Cabin-Concordia Seminary birthplace, and Christian Loeber Cabin. Registration forms are on the bulletin boards in the church entryway.

Financial Need For Medical Treatment

St. John's member and recent Red Bud High School graduate Ashlynn Crafton is battling leukemia. We can provide some financial assistance for her treatments at her GoFundMe account <https://gofund.me/3579ba87> or at an account set up with Buena Vista National Bank Account #272745. Thanks for helping her during this trying time.

Website Bible Studies

Bible studies topics under the Media tab of our website www.stjohnsredbud.org are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, , Baptism Q & A, Church & Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, Discussing Homosexuality, End of the World, Eternal Election and Predestination, 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, The Resurrection in Revelation, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, and Word Dwellers.

The Prayer Chain

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:16).*

Midweek Bible Classes

Our midweek Bible classes are Wednesday Morning (9:30 a.m.) Women (“Be Still and Know”); Wednesday 7:30 p.m. (2nd Chronicles) and Thursday **7:30 a.m.** (Joel).

Men’s Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the second and fourth (9th and 23rd) Saturdays in September as we continue to study the Old Testament book of Proverbs, “God’s Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living.”

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Sept. 2	5 p.m. Maya Macbeth
Sun. Sept. 3	8 a.m. Jacob Liefer 10:30 a.m. Carson Bowles
Sat. Sept. 9	5 p.m. Kade Liefer
Sun. Sept. 10	8 a.m. Brian Liefer 10:30 a.m. Clare Carnahan
Sat. Sept. 16	5 p.m. Ella Cowell
Sun. Sept. 17	8 a.m. Brooke Wolter 10:30 a.m. Molly Kuehn
Sat. Sept. 23	5 p.m. Liam Kilpatrick
Sun. Sept. 24	8 a.m. Addy Schloemann 10:30 a.m. Tessa Stenzel

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

Worship Greeters

Sat. Sept. 2	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Sept. 3	8 a.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat., Sept. 9	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Sept. 10	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. Sept. 16	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Sept. 17	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. Sept. 23	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Sept. 24	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. Sept. 30	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Oct. 1	8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel

We need a person or couple to serve as greeters for the 5th Saturday of the month (4x a year). The only qualifications, requirements, expectations and duties are to stand for about 15 minutes, smile and say “Good evening” to people as they enter the church. In other words, you can do this!

LCMS National Mission Offering

(from LCMS Mission Advancement)

Many thanks to you, dear members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, for your bold and faithful support of the 2023–2026 National Offering.

The LCMS preaches Christ crucified for all people. Your generous support will aid us in bringing this message to more people in more languages, that it may be known around the world.

Your contribution goes out alongside the generous offerings of your brothers and sisters in Christ. As the 2023 LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee concluded in early August, God’s people in the LCMS had already given nearly \$315,000 to this effort toward an initial three-year goal of \$500,000. As of August 17, that total had grown to nearly \$348,000.

These gifts will fund high-priority, high-quality translations of essential Christian teaching materials into various languages, beginning with Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese) and then moving on to others (i.e., Arabic, Portuguese and Korean), as increasing total contributions permit.

LCMS Foundation

Life is full of starts and stops, but the Lord looks at all our lives in one grand design. Our estate plans dwell in the grand design vision, instead of focusing only on the moment.

Bev and Frank were sitting out on their porch one evening reflecting on the events of their lives. Since marriage, they had lived in five different cities, as jobs had led them. Children’s school events had once captured their lives. Now their local pickleball tournaments take up much of their time. They smiled and cried together as they reflected on life’s events. But then Frank said, “Life just feels disjointed. With all the twists and turns, what was the purpose?” Bev responded, “Do you remember that verse from Bible study the other night? I think it was Colossians 3:17. Pastor made us memorize it. ‘Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’ I’m pretty sure that’s the point, don’t you?” “You are right,” Frank said. “Do you think our estate plans reflect that confidence or should we call the LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor who spoke at church last week?” Bev replied, “Let’s call him. I want to celebrate Jesus in all our life stages.”

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information or to start your plan.

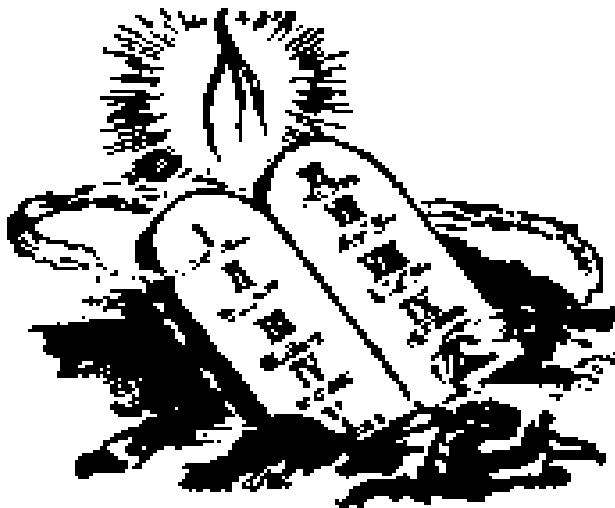
For Young Musicians

The Academy of Music at Christ Our Savior in Freeburg is beginning its fall session of private lessons and group classes on September 1. Private lessons on a wide variety of instruments along with piano, organ, and voice are offered. Group classes for Music Theory and Music History are a new addition this year. Mini Music Makers, a popular class, provides a group music experience for preschoolers and their caregivers. A second Mini Music Makers class is geared for children up to 8 years of age. For more information call Hannah at 618-353-3322 or go to theacademyofmusic.org.

From Lutheran Church Charities Hawaii Wildfires

This is the deadliest United States wildfire in more than 100 years, as authorities work to identify the victims and sift through the burned communities of western Maui. 3,000+ homes, businesses, schools, government, and cultural centers are destroyed. An estimated 12,000 people are displaced, with people sleeping in shelters, vehicles, stores, on the street, or with family and friends. With businesses destroyed, there is a massive loss of jobs.

The devastation is catastrophic, and there is a tremendous need for spiritual, emotional, and trauma care for everyone impacted and the first responders who are heroically dealing with the remaining wildfires, conducting search and rescue operations, and recovering lives lost. The greatest need is for financial donations to help the people of Maui. They do not have the ability to take in any more donations of items. If you are so moved by this disaster, please donate generously so that we can help survivors with this unfathomable loss.



LCMS Stewardship

“Stewardship in the First Commandment”

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments. The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods. What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I) We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him. Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment: “This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave” (Large Catechism I, 5–9).

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don’t have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God’s work.

September Church and School Calendar

Friday, September 1- *No School; LESA Development Day*

Saturday, September 2- *Cross Country at Pinckneyville*

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

SUNDAY, September 3-

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

9:30 a.m. All Ages Sunday School & Bible Class in the FH

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, September 4- *Labor Day! No School; Office Closed*

Tuesday, September 5-

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

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Steeleville

4:15 p.m. Baseball at St. Mary's; Softball at TSJ-Nashville

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

Wednesday, September 6-

7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Conf. classes

9:00 a.m. Grades 3-8 School Chapel Service at church

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

4:15 p.m. Baseball (B) at PDR; Softball at RBAA vs. Chester

6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Chronicles)

Thursday, September 7-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Joel)

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

4:15 p.m. Baseball & Softball at home vs. Coulterville

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, September 8- *Cross Country at Lincoln Park*

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service at church

1:00 p.m. Civil War Day at school

Baseball at Trinity-Edwardsville tournament

Saturday, September 9- *Softball A tourney at Red Bud Catholic*

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

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, September 10-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

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

Noon Senior Youth gathering w/ BBQ in basement hangout

Monday, September 11-

3:15 p.m. Faculty meeting in the school library

Tuesday, September 12- *Cross Country at Shooting Complex*

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

4:15 p.m. Baseball and Softball at home vs. RBES

6:30 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher League gathering in cafeteria

Wednesday, September 13-

7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Conf. classes

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

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

4:00 p.m. Softball B vs. RBES; 6 p.m. Softball vs. RBC

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in Fellowship Hall (2nd Chronicles)

Thursday, September 14- *Pastor in Springfield*

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Joel)

4:30 p.m. Softball at Millstadt

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

7:00 p.m. Men's Club gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 15- *Hawaiian Day for Maui support*

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service at church

5-9 p.m. Junior Youth at Eckert's Fun Farm in Millstadt

Saturday, September 16- *Cross Country at Edwardsville*

9:00 a.m. School Athletics Golf Fundraiser at NCCC

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

SUNDAY, September 17-

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

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School

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

5:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation Team meeting in the FH

Monday, September 18-

4:30 p.m. Baseball away at

6:00, 6:30, 7:00, & 7:30 p.m. Class meetings in cafeteria

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

Tuesday, September 19-

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

4:30 p.m. Baseball at home vs.

6:30 p.m. Evening Guild Gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 20-

7:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th&8th Public School Conf. classes

8:30 a.m. Grades 3-8 School Chapel service at church

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

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

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

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in Fellowship Hall (2nd Chronicles)

Thursday, September 21-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Joel)

4:15 p.m. Softball at home

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, September 22- *Grandparents' Day at school*

11:20 a.m. Early dismissal from school

Saturday, September 23-

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

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, September 24-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School

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

Monday, Sept. 25- *6th Grade Outdoor Ed at Camp Wartburg*

3:15 p.m. School faculty meeting

6:00 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 26- *Cross Country at Waterloo*

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

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

Wednesday, September 27- *Cross Country meet at Chester*

8:30 a.m. Grades 3-8 School Chapel service at church

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

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

3:30 p.m. 7th&8th Grades Public School Conf. classes

4:30 p.m. Acolyte training at church for Grades 6-8

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in Fellowship Hall (2nd Chronicles)

Thursday, September 28-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Joel)

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Crafting and Euchre at

Friday, September 29-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service at church

Saturday, September 30-

5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, October 1-

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

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service