

The Epistle

OCTOBER 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

"Expedience or Truth?"

Written by Dr. Kari Vo

Matthew 21:23-27 - And when He [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell Me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The Baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

This passage really bugs me, because the leaders consider their answer from every angle but one: What is the truth? They plan it out like a game of chess—"If we say this to Jesus, He will say this, and that's no good; but

if we say that, then the crowd will kill us." It's all political. They never stop for a moment to say, "Hey, what's the truth on this subject?"

No wonder Jesus won't answer them! They aren't looking for a true answer; they are looking for an answer they can use. And Jesus doesn't play those games. But we do, don't we? All too often I've caught myself considering questions this way. And I forget to ask the only important question, which is, "Which is the right, true thing to do?"

Against all this, Jesus calls us to a much simpler way to live. "Is it true?" He asks. "Is it right? Is it what God wants from you?" Those are the questions that matter. In the eyes of the world they may make us look childish, unsophisticated, unworldly; but that's okay. In Jesus' eyes, they are the questions that mark a faithful Christian. It doesn't really matter if the world thinks we are too naïve to live; we care about Jesus' opinion. And He is the One who called Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life. So, how can we go wrong, following the truth? Let's forget the world and all its scheming and follow Jesus—the One who loves us so much He lay down His life for us. That's something the world has never done, and never will do. But Jesus has. He gave Himself for us on the cross, so that we might share in His resurrection and live forever as children of God. Because of Him, we live in the light of truth—not in the shadows of scheming and plotting. Now that's worth celebrating!

WE PRAY: Dear Lord Jesus, turn my heart to follow You in truth and gladness. Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

We celebrated two more baptisms during the month of September. I return to my review of the book, To Baptize or Not to Baptize, by Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, a pastor of the Evangelical Church in America. I introduced this review in this space in last month's newsletter.

First, the author expresses an ecumenical plea to put an end to all rebaptisms among Christians. "What makes a true Christian is baptism. Our first task is the mutual recognition of baptism, with a corresponding cease-and-desist of all rebaptizing....If we truly believe that baptism is God's work upon the baptized, then we have no excuse for denying it because the baptism was performed by another confession or denomination...I ask churches practicing believer's baptism to refrain from rebaptizing those who were baptized as infants."

In the chapter, “Why the Church Baptizes,” the author states, “By the time the New Testament documents were being written down, baptism was already a widespread and undisputed practice in the church...There is no record of Christian rebaptism anywhere in the New Testament...The Gospels say nothing directly about the *practice* of baptism during Jesus’ earthly life...The baptismal themes—of the bestowal of the Holy Spirit and of conformity to the crucified Christ—resound across the Pauline corpus...(The book of) Acts devotes the most time of all the New Testament writings to baptism, but mainly by depicting the administration of baptism to a wide range of persons following hot on the heels of their first encounter with the gospel...The dramatic arc of baptisms in Acts makes it clear that, even after baptism, Christians still have plenty to learn and room to grow into the full implications of their faith.”

More on this topic of Holy Baptism next month.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

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

Thinking about this month’s newsletter, a word entered my mind, “Grace.” I wasn’t thinking about someone whose name is Grace. I wasn’t even thinking about the grace of a CUBS fan toward a Cardinal fan. Especially, when it comes to giving a Cardinal fan a hard time over their current place in the division standings. LOL.

No, as I was thinking about grace, I had a different definition in mind. I was thinking about grace as being something we receive that is **absolutely** undeserved. It’s underserved because we are sinful human beings. We constantly sin and fall short of the glory of God.

What is grace? Grace is about getting something that is completely underserved. It is amazing how God can use one little word like grace to completely change our mindset. Have any of you had a moment like this? You’re just going about your day. You’re thinking about and trying to remember all of the tasks you need to accomplish. Then, you start to find yourself overwhelmed. You might start to get down on yourself. How can I possibly get all these things accomplished? What am I going to do?

This may be the moment when you feel that you’ve reached the end of our rope. Losing our grip. We’re barely holding on and not sure how much longer when can hold on. Then something completely unexpected enters your

thought process. Something unexpected like the word “grace.”

It is in this instance that your thought process is changed. Just like that, you’re thinking about something completely different. You see, God has this amazing way of changing our focus. God is good like this. He gets us to re-focus. To change our minds from focusing on the things of this earthly world. The things that are constantly wasting away. The things we cannot take with us when we die. The things that we’re worried about that we need to get accomplished.

Yes, the Lord God has a way of leading away from thinking about these earthly things. He leads us to think about the godly and heavenly things. Some of these we have received. Some of these things we will receive or are still to come when we reach our heavenly home. These are the things that matter. These are the things that will last for all eternity. These things, as believers in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, are the eternal blessings we will receive when we are with Him living out eternal life with Him in heaven.

Just think about grace. It is a gift that we cannot earn. It is a gift that we do not deserve. It is a gift we freely receive from God on the account of Jesus Christ. Because of what He has done and is still doing on behalf of all those who believe in Him as their Lord and Savior. Grace.

As you go about your day. As you worry about all the things that need to be accomplished. Try to focus not on earthly things, but on Godly things and the Grace that God has freely bestowed upon you because you are His beloved child.

God’s blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

October Servers

Flowers: Cindy Ebers and Lisa Quinn

Parameters: Carol Turner Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

September 9 Baptism of Emery Jane Hollis

September 17 Rite of Confirmation for Morgan Buch,
Deborah Lewis, Lindsey Schumacher and Cathleen
Uffelmann

September 17 Addition of Samuel Schumacher
(baptized son of Lindsey)

September 23 Baptism of Elsie Lorraine Eggemeyer



Adult Confirmation on September 17: Lindsey Schumacher, Morgan Buch, Cathleen Uffelmann, Deborah Lewis and Pastor Mark Nebel

We Bid a Fond Farewell

September 12 Death of Barb (Schrader) Ladwig

September 18 Death of Derek Stellhorn

Evening Guild News

LWML Sunday is October 1.

Our Evening Guild Gathering will be Tuesday, October 17, in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker will be St. John's member Joan Voges, author and founder of "Lilyfields Collection." Joan has written over 40 songs in the span of six years, with 30 of them published. Guests are welcome to come and hear Joan's story! Hostesses: Paula Wiley, chairman, Donna Wetzel, and Joan Wiegand.

Immanuel Bunco Night Tuesday, October 24 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for an evening of fellowship and bunco at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waterloo. Bring two nonperishable food items or pay \$2. If you need a ride, please contact Sharon Guebert at 618-660-7803

Lower Kaskaskia Zone Fall Fellowship is Thursday morning, November 2, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Red Bud. Registration is at 8:45 a.m. The opening Worship Service is at 9 a.m. with Rev. Mark Harriss, Zone Counselor. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jeffery Nehrt from Southern Illinois Prison Ministry.

Quilting schedule for October is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the quilting room.

Men's Club

Our St. John's Men's Club will meet on Thursday October 12 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will view parts 3 & 4 of "Nurturing Your Faith: Identity," a Bible study from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

From Your Director of Christian Education

The familiar hymn, *The Church's One Foundation* begins with this stanza: "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the Word. From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride; With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died." As we reflect this month on our Lutheran Heritage may God grant us the strength of our early reformers to be bold in our proclamation of His Law and Gospel and praise Him for His goodness!

The first quarter of school will wrap up this first week of October. October 5 is the deadline for the addresses for college aged members to be included for this year's mailing. On October 6 the teachers and Pastor Nebel will attend the CID/SID joint Teacher's Conference in Collinsville. It will be a special event for me as Bryce and I will attend together! On Sunday, October 8 the Senior Youth will have a meeting and also assemble care packages for our college-aged members and graduates of St. John's to be mailed. We will hold the Family of Faith Fall Fellowship on Wednesday, October 11.

The Junior Youth event will be a pumpkin carving and movie night out on the school's lawn on Saturday, October 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 17 & 18. October 23-27 is Red Ribbon Week. We intend to hold the Fall Festival on Friday, October 27 with the help of PTL and our seventh and eighth grade students. Then on October 30 the Sunday school teachers will meet at 6 p.m. in the school's library.

October is a busy month but with God's grace and favor we take each day as the Lord will provide for our daily earthly needs. He has provided already His best gift in His Son Jesus and the work of forgiveness that He completed on the cross. We await the last day when He takes us and all believers with Him into Heaven!

Sola Gratia; Sola Fide; Sola Christus; Sola Scriptura!!

DCE Bill Becker

From the Principal's Pen

I love October! I look forward to the cool temperatures, apples, pumpkin patches, and football. The harvest is gathered as the days grow shorter. Fall is a wonderful time of year!

Thank you for those who supported our Golf Scramble on September 17. This event raised about \$6200 to support our sports uniform account and athletic fund.

We are blessed to have the return of the Family of Faith Fall Fellowship night on October 11 from 6:30-8:15 p.m. in the new gym. We look forward to being able to gather as a congregational family. This night will be a time to count our many blessings, to reflect on our

congregation and how it makes the school possible, and an evening when we can enjoy fellowship with one another. I am looking forward to seeing you at this event!!!

Congratulations to our St. John's girls' softball team as they won the Regional Championship game on September 21. The first round gave us a bye. We met the Red Bud Catholic, St. Mary's Chester, and Prairie du Rocher co-op team in the next round. We won 7-6 with a walk off hit by 8th grader Molly Kuehn in the seventh inning with two outs. The final round was against St. Boniface of Edwardsville on September 21. We won 6-3 in a very exciting game with the clutch hit coming from 8th grader Lilly Meyer with a base clearing triple in the bottom of the 5th inning. We play our first State game on Saturday, September 30 in Coulterville at 3:30 p.m. against the Defenders from Hoffman, Hoyleton, and Centralia. Congratulations to the team and coaches! We wish you God's blessings at the State competition. A pep rally was held on September 29 at 2:20 p.m. in the new gym to celebrate our team and send them on with our prayers and best wishes. Go Cougars!!!

Watkins sales will begin October 4 for students in grades 5-8 who participate in sports. The money earned from this fundraiser goes to the school uniform account. Please contact any student in sports or call the school office if you wish to place an order. The annual Cougar Prowl Fun Run will take place at school on October 5. This is the only major fundraiser the students will have for the school sponsored by our Parent Teacher League. Thank you for your support of our students. The money raised supports items needed for classroom use and materials needed for students. Last year 98% of funds raised for the Cougar Prowl went directly to projects or items that benefited students.

The students will have a few days off from school on October 6 and 9. On October 6 the teachers will attend the SID/CID conference at Good Shepherd in Collinsville. The 9th is the Columbus Day holiday. Parent/teacher conferences will be held on October 17-19. A letter was sent home with the students for parents to sign up for meetings with your child's teacher(s). Please be aware that on October 17 and 19 dismissal will be one-hour early, at 1:45 pm. October 20 is a no-school day because of teacher conferences that week.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 27. The PTL and Mr. Becker have been able to procure individuals for the three lead positions to make this event possible. We as a school are so thankful for these individuals and look for parents who have younger students to be apprentices to these season veteran volunteers. Please

watch the Cougar Tracks, student notes, and weekend worship bulletins for updates about this event.

Our annual Trunk or Treat event will be held in the new gym lobby area on October 31 from 5-7 p.m. as we also celebrate that date as Reformation Day.

God's blessings, Mr. Justin Palm



St. John's Lutheran Cougars with their softball Regional Championship trophy: Kneeling- Alexa Cheek, Emma Guebert, Ella Cowell, Tessa Stenzel, Aubrey Kiefer, Maybre Falkenhain, and Colae Kaiser. Standing: Coach Valerie Crafton, Kenadee Crafton, Lucy Kuehn, Molly Kuehn, Lilly Meyer, Norah Wagner, Mallory Arbeiter, Layla Kilpatrick, Sophia Zieger, Payton Liefer, and Coach Jenn Falkenhain.

Congratulations to the Red Bud Public School Girls' Softball team for winning its Regional Championship!



Carson Moll and a flamingo friend are all about Hawaiian Day as students and staff dressed the part to raise money for Maui wildfire relief on Friday, September 15.

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

Our Senior youth will hold their monthly gathering on Sunday, October 8 at noon in the church basement. We will assemble care packages for our college students. All high schoolers are welcome!

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

Mark your calendars for our October Event!

Pumpkin Carving Contest followed by movie on the lawn

• Saturday, October 14, 6 p.m. at St John's school pavilion

- Pumpkin carving will start at 6 p.m. – We'll light the pumpkins during the movie!
- Movie begins around 7 p.m. or when it's dark enough.
 - What to bring: pumpkin, carving kit, lawn chairs or blankets for movie, snacks, or drinks if you would like to.
 - I will supply popcorn and hot chocolate for the movie.
 - Parents and siblings are welcome to stay as well!
 - The movie will be PG or G. I'm thinking either Super Mario Bros or We Can Be Heros.
- Please RSVP (618/581-5928) by October 11 to give me an idea on how much popcorn, hot chocolate, and prizes I will need. Also, if you're not able to get a pumpkin let me know. I can bring one for you. *Erin Kuehn*

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.

Sunday School

Our mission project this year (10% of our offerings) will benefit a local project, the Musketeer Market & Royal Table. Both of these are operated through our local District 132 Schools that supply families with food, basic care needs, and supplies for making birthday cakes for the elementary children in our local community.

Perfect Attendance for September-

3 Year old: Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Clarke Thien, Kolby Young

4 Year old: Demi Grohmann, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr, Eliza Schrader

Kindergarten: Huxton Grohmann and Bentley Valentine

First Grade: Jettson Grohmann

Second Grade: Blakelynn Grohmann and Kolton Liefer

Third Grade: Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr, Elsie Liefer

Fourth Grade: Jackson Carnahan and Connor Liefer

Fifth Grade: Natalie Kassing and Kade Young

Seventh Grade: Tessa Stenzel

8th Grade: Joey Biffar, Sydney Kassing, Colin Korando

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.

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.

Careers for Christ Weekend at Concordia-Chicago

High school students who are interested in learning about professional church work careers are encouraged to register for Concordia University-Chicago's "Careers for Christ Weekend" from Friday, November 3 to noon on Sunday, November 5. The weekend will cost \$85. This includes all activities, materials, housing, meals, transportation during the event and a t-shirt.

Register online at CUChicago.edu/C4C with an online form and a permission form. Registration deadline is October 21.

8th Grade Class Trip

Our class of 2024 has 12 spots for guests on their April 12-20, 2024 trip. They will visit Petersburg, Kentucky; Charlottesville, Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Mt. Vernon in Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Somerset in Pennsylvania; and Dayton, Ohio. A \$500 deposit by Dec. 1 will hold your spot as a downpayment. Several meals, all entrance fees, and hotel costs are included. An estimated per guest cost sharing a double room is \$1,250. An estimated single guest room will be \$1,500. If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please let Mr. Bill Becker know at your earliest convenience (618-282-2958).

Red Cross Blood Drive

Due to a critical blood shortage, Red Bud High School National Honor Society is hosting a **BLOOD DRIVE October 4** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone who donates will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org or your Red Cross Blood app.

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 (CPH book, "Unshakeable" by Donna Snow); Wednesday 7:30 p.m. (2nd Chronicles) and Thursday **7:30 a.m.** (Amos).

Men's Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the first and third (7th and 21st) Saturdays in October as we continue to study the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

LCEF is offering an 18-month fixed-rate term note at 5% interest for new money only. You can open an account online (lcef.org) or by calling 800-843-5233.

By investing with LCEF you earn a competitive interest rate and make funds available for LCMS ministries and church workers. Your investment works twice as hard for you by helping support needed ministries and earning you interest. The need is urgent. LCEF is experiencing high loan demand and needs your investment to make sure we have the funds available for the church.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Sept. 30	5 p.m. Colton Albert
Sun. Oct. 1	8 a.m. Blaine Rohlfing 10:30 a.m. Molly Kuehn
Sat. Oct. 7	5 p.m. Sutton Jones
Sun. Oct. 8	8 a.m. Elle Sutton 10:30 a.m. Clare Carnahan
Sat. Oct. 14	5 p.m. Amelia Cheek
Sun. Oct. 15	8 a.m. Easton Ruebusch 10:30 a.m. Wiley Minemann
Sat. Oct. 21	5 p.m. Addison Breier
Sun. Oct. 22	8 a.m. Evan Muench 10:30 a.m. Brian Liefer
Sat. Oct. 28	5 p.m. Payton Liefer
Sun. Oct. 29	8 a.m. Josie Porter 10:30 a.m. Jozlynn Palm

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. 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
Sat. Oct. 7	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Oct. 8	8 a.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat., Oct. 14	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Oct. 15	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. Oct. 21	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Oct. 22	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. Oct. 28	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Oct. 29	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt

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!

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!

Southern Illinois District Mission Partnership

Our SID Mission Partnership Task Force is looking for support from congregations. The Dominican Republic Mission Partnership Task Force, a volunteer committee for the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS, is working to support the Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic through partnership with our district congregations. We would like to ask you to consider joining us in our mission. You can join us by:

- Praying for the Dominican Republic seminary;
- Participating in local fundraising efforts and events;
- Partnering with us to organize and plan support ideas.

For information on getting involved, please contact our committee at sidlcmsgage@gmail.com Thank you!!

LCMS Foundation

Life is full of milestone events that impact the gifts we plan from our estates. In 1971, Herb and Rachel lost their son in the Vietnam War. Though that was 52 years ago, Herb and Rachel still remember the day they received the bad news. Today, their son would have been 71. They wonder why they are still living at 94, when their son's life was so short. They are thankful that in Jesus, both they and their son will live with Jesus in eternity.

A year before their son left for Vietnam, he had married, and his wife was expecting a child when he left. Through the years, Herb and Rachel felt responsible for this child, but now they know that at age 52, their grandson is a successful, happily married man with children of his own. The plans they included in their estate 52 years ago are no longer needed for his survival.

Herb and Rachel feel it is time to rebalance their estate plan, equally dividing the family inheritance between their two surviving children and this grandson. As they contemplate this, they realize that both of their children, just like their grandson, are quite comfortable financially. But they have been hearing a lot lately at Church that families need scholarship support to send their children to the Lutheran school. There is an endowment fund set up for that purpose. They feel their estate plan should include a gift for this endowment. Yet at their age, the work of figuring this all out on their own seems intimidating. They called their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, who led them with some questions, to finally settle on a \$100,000 gift for ministry. They found out they could create this gift simply by changing a beneficiary designation on their IRA which they never touch. They are thankful that more children will be taught about Jesus, just like their son was when he was in this school.

Do you sense that your plans are changing? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you organize that new plan. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfn.org for more information or to start your plan.

LCMS Stewardship

“It's in the Way that You Use It” Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots! A tool can be used and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should “not misuse the name of the Lord.” In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use: “We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.”

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

October 31st is Reformation Day!

October Church and School Calendar

Saturday, September 30-

3:30 p.m. Girls' State Softball game at Coulterville

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

11:00 a.m. Class of 2024 fundraising BBQ (school parking lot)

Monday, October 2- *Pastors are at District Pastors' Conference Cross Country at Red Bud Athletic Association*

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, October 3- *Pastors are at District Pastors' Conference*

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, October 4-

OVC Cross Country at Randolph County Lake

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School confirmation 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

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

Thursday, October 5- *Cougar Prowl Fun Run*

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

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Friday, October 6- *No School; District Teachers' Conference*

Saturday, October 7-

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

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

SUNDAY, October 8-

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 gathers to assemble college care packages

Monday, October 9- *Columbus Day! Office and School closed*

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, October 10- *Fall Picture Day at school*

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

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

Wednesday, October 11-

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 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. Family of Faith Fall Fellowship in the new gym

Thursday, October 12-

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

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

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

Friday, October 13-

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

Saturday, October 14-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

6:00 p.m. Junior Youth Pumpkin Carving and Movie Night

SUNDAY, October 15-

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)

Monday, October 16-

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

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

Tuesday, October 17-

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

2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parent/Teacher conferences at school

7:00 p.m. Evening Guild Gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 18-

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

9:00 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

3-8 p.m. Parent/Teacher conferences at school

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

Thursday, October 19-

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

2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher conferences at school

4:00 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in pastors' office

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

Friday, October 20- *No school!*

Saturday, October 21-

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

3:00 p.m. Girls' basketball Hoops for the Cure vs. Chester

4:15 p.m. Boys' basketball Hoops for the Cure vs. RBES

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

SUNDAY, October 22-

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, October 23- *Red Ribbon Week at school*

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, October 24-

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

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

6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at home versus Chester Public

Wednesday, October 25-

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

9:00 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

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

Thursday, October 26-

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

6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball at home vs. SPPCS

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

Friday, October 27-

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

4-7 p.m. PTL Fall Festival in the old gym

Saturday, October 28-

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pastor Nebel at District Board of Directors

5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion (Reformation)

SUNDAY, October 29- *Reformation Day (observed)*

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 with Holy Communion

Monday, October 30-

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

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, October 31-

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

5-7 p.m. Trunk or Treat in the new gym lobby