

## The Epistle

**DECEMBER 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](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*

*Mr. Justin Palm, Principal*

*Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education*

*Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director*

### From Lutheran Hour Ministries

#### *Sustaining Us to the End*

(written by Dr. Kari Vo)

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:3-9 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Paul gives thanks for the Corinthians, and this surprises me a little bit. I mean, when you read the rest of his letter, it sounds like these people were a real headache for him! There are divisions in the church, people trying to pit one leader against another, sexual sin, and people getting drunk at Communion meals! And yet, Paul can still give thanks for them. How?

He tells us: "Because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus." Messed up as the Corinthians

are, still, they are believers in Jesus, and their sins are covered because Jesus gave Himself for them on the cross. Even more, Jesus rose from the dead for their sakes; and so He is able to sustain them and bring them back to the right way, again and again, as many times as necessary. As Paul says, Jesus will "sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the meantime, what? Paul will be correcting these people again and again, with all the patience he can find in the Holy Spirit's mercy, because he loves them. They may be a headache, but they are *his* headache, his beloved people, and he won't give up on them—because Jesus won't give up on them.

This comforts me! If God won't give up on the Corinthians, I have good reason to think He won't give up on me. And He won't give up on you, either, no matter what you have done or what mistakes you have made. You are beloved. Jesus has made you His own through His death and resurrection. His grace is stronger than all your sin. And no matter what messes you get into, the Holy Spirit will be there, calling you back, so that you, too, will be found clean and blameless on the day when Jesus returns—not by your own doing, but by His.

**Prayer-** Dear Lord, keep bringing me back to You. Amen.

### Your Pastors' Ponderings

We had two baptisms during the month of November. 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 September's newsletter.

"Acceptance of infant baptism also implies that any deliberate delay on the part of Christian parents in bringing their children to baptism is an expression of bad faith. Because baptism is the *beginning* of life in Christ and the church, a prolonged delay in seeking baptism suggests indifference, misunderstanding, or contempt of baptism. For this reason, churches that baptize infants do not only accept infant baptism passively. They also promote it actively."

"An aged person receiving baptism on his deathbed is just as baptized as a person who got baptized days after birth and lived long after. It's only a delay in baptism due to contempt for it, or to game the system by avoiding post-baptismal sins, that is an expression of bad faith."

More on this topic of Holy Baptism next month.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

*P.S.:* Check out the Worship Calendar in this edition. It is a little tricky around Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve.

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ,

I hope this month's newsletter finds everyone doing well. We've come to the end of another church year. As we do, we enter into the season of Advent, the time of the church year when we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We need to prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming. The coming of Jesus Christ will mean the change of everything as we know it. We need to use this time to prepare ourselves for His coming and what it means for us.

As another church year has ended, we find ourselves again looking back over the year. Did we get accomplished all that we wanted to do? Did everything go according to our plans? Were we able to set time aside to be with the Lord and in His Word? Of course, I would expect the answer to these questions to be, "No" for all of us.

Why is that? Well, because none of us is perfect. It seems like we constantly over-promise and underachieve. We just cannot get everything we want done. It's because we simply do not have enough time in the day. Getting to a place where we have enough time in the day to accomplish the tasks at hand takes much determination, discipline, and strict obedience. In other words, it takes a lot of hard work and discipline.

So, what do we do? Well, after much stress, anxiety, and aggravation, most of us just throw our hands up in the air and say, "That is it. I cannot do it anymore. I give up!!!" And just like that we are done. The most concerning of these statements is, "I give up!!!" This can also be the most dangerous. Do not give up. I do not want you to give up. Pastor Nebel does not want you to give up. More importantly, God does not want you to give up. The devil is right alongside us trying to get us to give up, but you cannot. There is too much at stake. We need to keep pushing through in good times, as well as in bad.

As we enter this busy time of year, a time when things can become chaotic and get out of control, be encouraged not to give up. Keep pushing forward. Get into God's Word. Go to church. These are some of the best things we can place in our lives to help us and encourage us, faith, belief, discipline, obedience, trust, etc. As we are taught in Philippians 4:13 (ESV), "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

*God's blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak*

### **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!

### **Wurstmarkt**

Thank you to everyone who worked, supported, participated in and attended last Sunday's Men's Club Wurstmarkt! Thank you to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents for their help in the dining room. We served 600 people through the dining room and carry-outs. Our Men's Club will use the proceeds to support Lutheran Christian mission ministry.

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

One of my favorite Advent hymns is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." In verse one we hear, "*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*"

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We await the commemoration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Jesus came to us as the babe of Bethlehem. He came in God's perfect timing. He's coming again also in God's perfect timing. The worries of this present age will soon fade away. God's perfect plan of salvation has been revealed. As we proceed through the coming month and into a new year, I pray God's peace and comfort is with all of you!

The Senior Youth is branching out and will be forming a LIFE committee in conjunction with Lutherans for Life. The first event will be December 1 at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They also are selling Hemme Cheese with orders due by December 10. A Christmas progressive meal is being planned. The Junior Youth will assist with the decorating of the church on December 2. They will also make tie blankets for our church members in assisted living centers in town. The primary Sunday School Christmas service will be on Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Please join us as we listen to our youngest Sunday school students share the account of Jesus' birth. The school children will be leading the Advent services at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. once again in the school's old gym beginning November 29 (grades 3-5), December 6 (grades Kdg.-2), December 13 (grades 6-8 at church), and December 20 (Daycare & Preschool). The Senior Youth will be involved with the 9 p.m. candlelight service on December 24. There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or 31. The Sunday school teachers will not meet on Monday, December 25.

As we proceed through the coming month and into a new year, I pray God's peace and comfort is with all of you this blessed season!

God's richest blessings to all of you! *DCE Bill Becker*

## From the Principal's Pen

Greetings to you this Advent season! As we prepare for the Christ Child, may your days be a blessing as we share the wonderful news with our family and friends. We congratulate Ms. Amanda Ruhmann for being selected as the VFW Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Award winner. We are proud to recognize her for representing our school and community. We are very thankful for and very proud of the men and women who we remembered and honored during our Veteran's Day Program on November 10. We thank Sergeant First Class Casey Vallett and Kathy Rowold for speaking at our assembly. Sergeant Vallett talked about all the freedoms we have that our veterans have won for us and still work hard to secure for us. Mrs. Rowold informed us of the proper flag etiquette. She also presented Brooke Wolter the 2nd place award and Karleigh Liefer 1st place in the Patriots Pen Essay Contest (pictured below with teacher Nancy Whelan on the left and Principal Justin Palm on the right).



*Casey Vallett, Kathy Rowold and teacher Betty Schmitz pose with the Kindergarten class after the Veterans Day program.*

Students, teachers, and pastors showed their appreciation for veterans through artwork, acrostic poems, speeches, prayers, and applause. We were happy to see so many former veterans and their families!!

Both our boys and girls are busy with regular season basketball games and cheerleading. Both our boys and girls have competed in a tournament a piece and each placed well in their respective tournament. The boys' varsity team was able to finish 7th in the 16-team tournament hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville. The girls' team finish 4th in their six-team tournament hosted by Trinity St. John's Nashville. Aside from the heat of competition both teams were able to enjoy some Lutheran fellowship and services as both of these tournaments had only Lutheran Schools participate and offered church services after competition on Saturday evening. Please check the schedule for dates and times. Thanks for all who ordered Watkins again this year. The money helps to support the sports uniform account.

The junior high school students are in the midst of their second quarter service project. They have visited Garden Place twice and will soon visit two more times. On these visits the students play the game "Farkle" with the residents. During the visits many genuine conversations have taken place and what appears to be a whole lot of fun.



*Students Mallory Arbeiter, Lily Meyer and Jack Sachtleben play Farkle with St. John's members Omer Liefer and Vernon Muench at Garden Place.*

We are preparing our Christmas messages with our children. They are working hard to learn their parts in word and song. We will no longer have small services but be able to return to grade group services. Each grade group will share the Christmas story in their unique way. Family members are invited to attend these services which will be held in the old gym or church. The schedule of these services is as follows: ● Grades 3-5 : November 29



at 9:00 am & 7:00 pm (old gymnasium) • Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: December 6 at 9:00 am & 7:00 pm (old gymnasium) • Grades 6-8 on December 13 at 9:00 am & 7:00 pm (Church) • Daycare & Preschool on December 20 at 9:00 am & 7:00 pm (old gymnasium). Our students once again will be able to shop the Christmas Cottage on November 30 and December 2. This is sponsored by the 7th grade class. The funds earned will go towards their Washington DC trip in 2025. Our only early dismissal day for December will be Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Dismissal will be at 1:45 p.m. There will be no after-school care that day. May the joy, love, peace and hope of Christmas fill your hearts during the Christmas season and into the new year!

*God's blessings, Mr. Justin Palm*

### **December Servers**

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

### **Evening Guild News**

Our Evening Guild Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Guests and husbands are welcome for a fried chicken potluck dinner with bunco games and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish to share. Devotions will be led by Chris Doerr-Kellerhouse. Our mission project is donations of food for the Musketeer Market.

The quilting schedule for December is Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the quilting room.

The LWML Winter Quarterly and SID December Newsletter issue are available for pick up at the church entrance or the Christmas Party on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

LWML Scholarships: The Southern Illinois District LWML offers scholarships to students going into full-time church work (pastor, teacher, DCE) for next fall's semester. Applications must be submitted by March 15. They are on the website at [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org).

### **Men's Club**

Our St. John's Men's Club will meet on Thursday December 14 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a Christmas Dinner, games and fellowship.

### **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**

Senior Youth members are selling Hemme Cheese with orders due by December 10. A Christmas progressive meal is being planned. Senior Youth will assist with our 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight service on December 24.

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**

Our December Junior Youth Group event is Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 a.m. as we will help decorate the church for Christmas!! After decorating the church Jenn Langrehr will provide pizza for lunch for the helpers. I will need a headcount by December 1st at the latest. Please bring your own drink.

Following our decorating, the junior youth will make tie blankets for our church members in assisted living and nursing homes in town. We then will need drivers so that we can deliver the blankets.

### **Website Bible Studies**

Bible studies topics under the Media tab of our website [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org) are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, , Baptism Q & A, Church & Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, 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.

### **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.

### 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 December-

3-Year-old: Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien; 4-Year-old: Demi Grohmann, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr; Kindergarten: Raelynn Stenzel; First Grade: Jettson Grohmann; Third Grade: Amelia Langrehr, Liza Wagner; Fifth Grade: Aiden Arbeiter; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Tessa Stenzel; 8th Grade: Mallory Arbeiter, Sydney Kassing, Lilly Meyer

Thank you for your participation in and your support of our Sunday School ministry!

### 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.

### Welcome to Our Family of Faith

November 26 Baptism of Laney Twyla Henry  
(daughter of Tyler and Megan (Miller) Henry)

### We Bid a Fond Farewell

November 6 Transfer out of Gena Triefenbach to St. John Lutheran Church in Baldwin, Illinois

November 6 Release of Ashlyn Stellhorn and Jacob Stellhorn (baptized but past confirmation age and not confirmed; out of area)

November 6 Release of baptized member Devyn Liefer (confirmed outside of the Lutheran Church)

November 6 Release of Tyler Brauer, Gary Bievenue, Heather Bievenue, Bryant Burgdorf, Dennis Heaton, Stormie Heaton, Shelbie Heaton, Barbara Junge, Pam Kessell, Brandon Wittenborn and Emmeleigh Wittenborn (whereabouts unknown, no address, out of area, inactivity)

### 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](mailto: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 on breaks this month. They will resume during the first week of January.

Men's Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the first and third (2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>) Saturdays in December 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 and now a 30-month fixed-rate term note for 6.25% interest. This is for new money only with a minimum of \$500. You can open an account online ([lcef.org](http://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.

Thank you for your continued support of LCEF and our mission. By investing with us, you're securing the future of LCMS ministry.

### Acolyte Schedule

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Sat. Dec. 2  | 5 p.m. Brynlee Liefer   |
| Sun. Dec. 3  | 8 a.m. Carson Moll<br>10:30 a.m. Tessa Stenzel                            |
| Sat. Dec. 9  | 5 p.m. Addy Schloemann  |
| Sun. Dec. 10 | 8 a.m. Lilly Meyer<br>10:30 a.m. Maya Macbeth<br>6:00 p.m. Sydney Kassing |
| Sat. Dec. 16 | 5 p.m. Case Hess  |
| Sun. Dec. 17 | 8 a.m. Hollis Wolfmeier<br>10:30 a.m. Liam Kilpatrick                     |
| Sat. Dec. 23 | 5 p.m. Athena Wolfmeier   |
| Sun. Dec. 24 | 3 p.m. Carson Moll<br>5 p.m. Addison Brier<br>9 p.m. Senior Youth         |
| Mon. Dec. 25 | 9 a.m. Mr. Becker   |
| Sat. Dec. 30 | 5 p.m. Ella Cowell  |
| Sun. Dec. 31 | 10 a.m. Austin Stellhorn<br>5 p.m. Kade Liefer                            |
| Mon. Jan. 1  | 10 a.m. Molly Kuehn   |

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

### Worship Greeters

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sat. Dec. 2   | 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  |
| Sun. Dec. 3   | 8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele<br>10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann                   |
| Sat. Dec. 9   | 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  |
| Sun. Dec. 10  | 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold<br>10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt                            |
| Sat. Dec. 16  | 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  |
| Sun. Dec. 17  | 8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt<br>10:30 a.m. Vernitta Wolter / Cindy Ebers                     |
| Sat., Dec. 23 | 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  |
| Sun. Dec. 24  | 3 p.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse<br>5 p.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel<br>9 p.m. Senior Youth |
| Mon. Dec. 25  | 9 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert   |
| Sat. Dec. 30  | 5 p.m.  |
| Sun. Dec. 31  | 10 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer<br>5 p.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf                                 |
| Mon. Jan. 1   | 10 a.m.   |

*We need a person or couple to serve as greeters for the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month (4x a year) and special services. 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 Stewardship Ministry

"The Measure of Our Generosity"

In the Small Catechism, we find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But in the recording of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, we find the full version:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8–11).

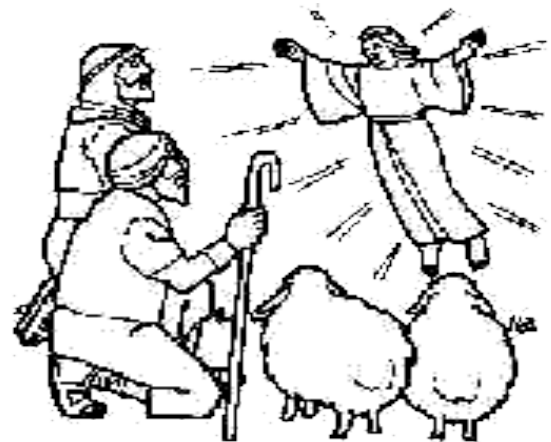
Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that

all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Colossians 2:16). Or, as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies to us as New Testament believers.

But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or, as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is no rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church leaders for them to make sure that you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So, you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of Christian mission ministry in this New Testament age if our financial giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?



## December Church and School Calendar

### Friday, December 1-

4 p.m. Senior Youth Life Committee gathers in Fellowship Hall  
*Basketball tourneys: Girls A @ Edwardsville; Boys C @ RBC*

### Saturday, December 2-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (Proverbs)  
10:00 a.m. to noon Church Decorating for Christmas  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, December 3-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:25 a.m. Nursery-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Christmas Service practice (church)  
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes; Grades 2-8 Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service

5:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation meeting in the Fellowship Hall

### Monday, December 4-

3:00 p.m. School faculty meeting  
5:30 p.m. Girls' basketball at home vs. Holy Childhood  
6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball at Prairie duRocher  
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meets in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

### Tuesday, December 5- Pastors at Circuit Conference-Prairie

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
6 p.m. Boys' basketball at home vs. Trinity/St. John, Nashville  
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at Steelville Public  
6:00 p.m. Evening Guild Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, December 6-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Public School confirmation classes  
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Grades Kdg.-2 Christmas Service in old gym  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, December 7-

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony  
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at home vs. Valmeyer

### Friday, December 8-

*C Team Basketball tournaments: Boys at RBC, Girls at home*

### Saturday, December 9-

9:00 a.m. Elder Basket deliveries  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service

### SUNDAY, December 10-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service  
9:25 a.m. Nursery-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Christmas Service practice (church)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
6:00 p.m. Nursery-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sunday School Christmas Service

### Monday, December 11-

6:00 p.m. Board for Parish Education meeting in school library  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

### Tuesday, December 12-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at home vs. Steeleville  
6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball at New Athens

### Wednesday, December 13-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Public School Conf. classes  
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Road to Bethlehem Service (church)  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, December 14-

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
3:00 p.m. Afternoon Holy Communion Service at church  
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at home vs. TSJ-Nashville  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

6:00 p.m. Men's Club Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, December 16-

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

### SUNDAY, December 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)

### Monday, December 18-

6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball at home vs. Marissa  
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at SPPCS-Waterloo  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room  
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the school library

### Tuesday, December 19-

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

### Wednesday, December 20-

7:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Public School Conf. classes  
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Daycare & Preschool Christmas service  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
1:45 Early Dismissal

### Thursday, December 21- No school!

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

### Friday, December 22- No school!

### Saturday, December 23-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

### SUNDAY, December 24-

*No morning worship, Sunday School or Bible classes*  
3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service  
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion/Candlelight Service

### Monday, December 25- Christ is Born! Glory to God!

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

### Tuesday, December 26- Office Closed

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Garden Place

### Wednesday, December 27-

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

### Thursday, December 28-

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

### Saturday, December 30-

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

### SUNDAY, December 31-

10:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
*No Sunday School or Bible classes today*  
5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service  
Monday, January 1, 2024- Happy New Year!

10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Matins Service

### Tuesday, January 2- Office Closed

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meets in the Fellowship Hall



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Red Bud, Illinois**

**Worship Calendar: 2023-2024 Church Year (Series B)**

NOVEMBER 2023

*Wed 29 9 a.m./7 p.m. Grades 3-5 Christmas*

DECEMBER 2023

Sat/Sun 2/3 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent  
*Wed 6 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Grades K-2 Christmas*  
 Sat/Sun 9/10 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
 Sun 10 6 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service  
 Wed 13 9 a.m./7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Christmas  
 Thu 14 \*3 p.m. Holy Communion Service  
 Sat/Sun 16/17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
*Wed. 20 9 a.m./7 p.m. Early Childhood Christmas Service*  
 Sat 23 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (5 p.m.)  
 Sun 24 \*3 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion  
 Sun 24 \*9 p.m. Christmas Eve Com./Candlelight  
 Mon 25 \*9 a.m. Christmas Day Communion  
 Sat/Sun 30/31 \*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas (5 pm & 10 am)  
 Sun 31 \*5 p.m. New Year's Eve Communion  
*Services in italics will be held in the school's old gym.*

JANUARY 2024

Mon 1 10 a.m. New Year's Matins  
 Sat/Sun 6/7 \*Epiphany Holy Communion  
 Thu 11 \*3 p.m. Holy Communion Service  
 Sat/Sun 13/14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany  
 Sat/Sun 20/21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany (Life)  
 Sat/Sun 27/28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany

FEBRUARY 2024

Sat/Sun 3/4 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany  
 Thu 8 \*3 p.m. Holy Communion Service  
 Sat/Sun 10/11 \*The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
 Wed 14 \*8:30 a.m. & \*7 p.m. Ash Wednesday  
 Sat/Sun 17/18 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 Wed 21 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Midweek Lent  
 Sat. Sun 24/25 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 Wed 28 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Midweek Lent

MARCH 2024

Sat/Sun 2/3 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 Wed 6 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Midweek Lent  
 Sat/Sun 9/10 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 Wed 13 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Midweek Lent  
 Sat/Sun 16/17 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
 Wed 20 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Midweek Lent  
 Sat/Sun 23/24 \*Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion  
 Thu 28 \*8:30 a.m. & \*7 p.m. Maundy Thursday  
 Fri 29 8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Good Friday  
 Sat 30 \*5 p.m. Resurrection Festival Service  
 Sun 31 \*6:30 a.m. Resurrection Sunrise Service  
 Sun 31 \*10:30 a.m. Resurrection Festival Service

APRIL 2024

Sat/Sun 6/7 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (*Rite of Confirmation*)  
 Sat/Sun 13/14 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 Sat/Sun 20/21 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 Sat/Sun 27/28 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

MAY 2024

Sat/Sun 4/5 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 Thu 9 \*8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Ascension Day  
 Sat/Sun 11/12 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)  
 Sat/Sun 18/19 \*Day of Pentecost  
 Sat/Sun 25/26 \*Trinity Sunday (Freedom Celebration)

JUNE 2024

Sat/Sun 1/2 Pentecost 2 (Proper 4)  
 Sat/Sun 8/9 Pentecost 3 (Proper 5)  
 Sat/Sun 15/16 Pentecost 4 (Proper 6) (Father's Day)  
 Sat/Sun 22/23 Pentecost 5 (Proper 7)  
 Sat/Sun 29/30 \*Pentecost 6 (Proper 8)

JULY 2024

Sat/Sun 6/7 Pentecost 7 (Proper 9)  
 Sat/Sun 13/14 Pentecost 8 (Proper 10)  
 Sat/Sun 20/21 Pentecost 9 (Proper 11)  
 Sat/Sun 27/28 Pentecost 10 (Proper 12)

AUGUST 2024

Sat/Sun 3/4 Pentecost 11 (Proper 13)  
 Sat/Sun 10/11 Pentecost 12 (Proper 14)  
 Sat/Sun 17/18 Pentecost 13 (Proper 15) (Staff Dedication)  
 Sat/Sun 24/25 Pentecost 14 (Proper 16) (Rally Day?)

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sat/Sun \*31/1 Pentecost 15 (Proper 17)  
 Sat/Sun 7/8 Pentecost 16 (Proper 18)  
 Sat/Sun 14/15 Pentecost 17 (Proper 19)  
 Sat/Sun 21/22 Pentecost 18 (Proper 20)  
 Sat/Sun 28/29 Pentecost 19 (Proper 21) (St. Michael?)  
*(Saturdays and Sundays do not match up this month!)*

OCTOBER 2024

Sat/Sun 5/6 Pentecost 20 (Proper 22) (LWML)  
 Sat/Sun 12/13 Pentecost 21 (Proper 23)  
 Sat/Sun 19/20 Pentecost 22 (Proper 24)  
 Sat/Sun 26/27 \*Reformation Day

NOVEMBER 2024

Sat/Sun 2/3 \*All Saints' Day/Faithful Departed  
 Sat/Sun 9/10 Pentecost 25 (Proper 27)  
 Sat/Sun 16/17 Pentecost 26 (Proper 28)  
 Sat/Sun 23/24 Christ the King (Proper 29)  
 Wed/Thu 28/29 \*7 p.m. and \*9 a.m. Thanksgiving

Saturdays at 5 p.m.; Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
 Holy Communion is at 5 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
 Holy Communion is at 8 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
 Holy Communion is at 10:30 a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
 \*Holy Communion also is every 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
 of the month and major church festivals



**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 [sidlcmessage@gmail.com](mailto:sidlcmessage@gmail.com) Thank you!!