

The Epistle

FEBRUARY 2024

**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 Church Charities

"Deep Down Clean"

*By the late Rev. Ken Klaus of
Lutheran Hour Ministries*

Mark 1:40-42 - And a leper came to Him [Jesus], imploring Him, and kneeling said to Him, "If You will, You can make me clean." Moved with pity, He stretched out His hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Years ago, I was leading a Christian tour group to Egypt. We were awed by the sights and sounds of that country's past magnificence and its current, vibrant culture. There was, however, one thing that didn't impress some of our "cleanliness-is-next-to-godliness" travelers." And that was the dust and dirt we encountered everywhere. One lady, who was particularly irked, saw a little girl playing on what looked to be a village garbage dump. In disgust the woman said, "Why doesn't that child's mother do something to clean her up?"

Our guide, a native Cairene, overheard her dissatisfaction. He picked up the microphone and calmly said, "Ladies and gentlemen, someone has asked how a

mother could let her daughter get so dirty. I can only tell you this: visitors to our country hate dirt, but they don't know the love we have for our little children. The mothers of our country cherish and love their little children, but they don't really hate dirt—not like some of our visitors do. So, until love for a child and hatred for dirt come together, these children are likely to remain as they are—playing on dirty trash heaps."

After that the bus got very quiet, with many thinking about the truth of what the guide had just said. For positive change to happen in our world—in our communities, families, and churches—then love and power need to come together.

As Christians, we know that love and power *have* come together—in Jesus Christ. Our Heavenly Father, moved by love, sent His only Son to be born as one of us. As the omnipotent Son of God, Jesus willingly lived, suffered, died, and rose for us. Because ultimate power and love come together in the Savior, all who believe in Him are changed, transformed, and completely *cleansed*. They are no longer covered by the filth of sin. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church: "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

God has done for us what we could never do on our own: "For God has done what the Law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4).

Prayer- Dear Heavenly Father, "Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

I return to my summary 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.

"To the person receiving it, baptism is the gospel, pure gospel: entirely and only the self-donation of God to a person...What appears to be a command is in fact a gift...The authority to baptized is not something that inheres in the pastor personally, even after ordination. The power lies in the office, not the person... Pastoral conversations about baptizing (or not) should take place in

a setting of commitment and concern for the spiritual good of the people you (the pastor) encounter...The point of pastoral authority is not to exercise power over others, but to see to it that people actually receive the real thing that God offers them in the gospel.”

Thank you so very much for your kind expressions of sympathy at the earthly passing of Cindy’s mother, Elois Muehler. Blessed are those who die in the Lord! We will be at her funeral in Concordia, Missouri on Saturday, February 3, and then in Lidgerwood, North Dakota for another funeral and burial (weather permitting) on Sunday, February 18.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

+++++

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

As we close the first month in the year of our Lord 2024, I ask you, how is the beginning of this year going for you? Did the month of January provide you with some respite time, some time to settle down from the hustle, bustle, and business of the Christmas season? Maybe some of you have and maybe some of you haven’t had such time. Maybe you weren’t able to relax for reasons beyond your control.

Regardless of how we feel, as I wrote about in last month’s newsletter, we need to look at each day as a new opportunity that we have been given by God as a fresh start. Each day is a gift given to us by God. We should use it to the fullest. Do you feel like you are having a hard time living your life to the fullness of what God expects from you? Is this leaving you feeling guilty? Well, join the club. Every one of us has times in our lives where it feels as if we’re not doing good enough.

After all, we are simply human. We are human beings who consistently fall to the power of sin. Yes, we come face-to-face constantly with sin and we fall short. The very sin that came into existence from the beginning of time, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit from which God had commanded them not to eat. Does this sound like you? Do you feel like you need more help?

Then this is the perfect time of year for you. The perfect time of year because February 14th begins the season of Lent. Lent is a solemn time of the Christian Church year. It is a time for repentance, a 40-day period of time (excluding Sundays) when the Church presents us with time to remember, observe, and commemorate all

that our Lord has done, is doing, and will continue to do for us.

Each year Lent provides us with a remembrance of what Christ has done for us. He did it all to conquer and save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We remember what He endured for us. From His being scourged, to His being crucified on a cross, to His resurrection from the dead on the third day. Everything that He endured, every cut, all of the pain, every drop of blood that He shed was out of His great love and mercy for us.

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite each and every one of you to attend worship service each week. Join with one another as we closely think about, remember, and listen to every detail that Jesus Christ went through for each and every one of us. This isn’t simply because it is a solemn time. It is also because it is a time to be thankful for all He has done for us. It is also a time to understand all of the great things He has done and accomplished for us. We consider this to be a solemn time of year because of what Jesus endured for us. It is a time where one Man shows us all what it is like to be a loving, caring, and selfless person. It is a time when one Man shows us what it is like to give up His life for the sake of many. It is a time when that one Man provides for all of us what it truly means to be a Christian.

God’s blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Services

The season of Lent this year begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We will hold Holy Communion services that day at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Midweek Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20. The theme for our services is “With Jesus in the Upper Room” from the Gospel of John, chapters 13-17.

The evening services will be preceded by a Lenten supper in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. and a hymn sing in church at 6:50 p.m. The menu for this month is: Feb. 14- Chicken Noodle Soup and Caesar Salad; Feb. 21- Spaghetti, garlic bread and lettuce salad; and Feb. 28- Pulled pork, baked beans and chips. The 5th grade class will assist with serving these meals.

February Servers

Flowers: Jamie and Natalie Korando
Paraments: Ella Hemmer
Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

From Your Director of Christian Education

In 1st John 4:16 we hear, “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” God’s greatest gift of love is His Son Jesus. The Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, died on Mt. Calvary, and rose victoriously on Easter morning. This loving Jesus will return on the last day to take us and all believers with Him into heaven.

February is full of activities. The eighth grade will host a concession stand for the first of three estate sales for Loren Harms. The first one will be held in the old gym at school. An open house for the school will be held Wednesday, February 7. See Mr. Palm’s article for more information. The seventh grade class is selling wings. The orders are due February 4 and will be delivered February 11. See any seventh grader to place your order. The current fifth grade class will assist with the Lenten meals starting with Ash Wednesday on February 14. The menu is chicken noodle soup, Caesar salad, and desserts provided by the families signed up to work. On February 16 & 17 the eighth grade will run the concession stand for the B-team volleyball tournament. On Sunday, February 18 the faculty/staff will be host a BBQ to benefit the Prigge family medical expenses. The menu will include pork steaks, brats, potato salad, baked beans, slaw and macaroni and cheese. A free will offering bake sale will be held in conjunction with the BBQ. On February 21 the Lenten meal will include spaghetti, garlic bread, lettuce salad, and desserts provided by the families signed up to work. The sixth grade will be hosting a euchre tournament on February 25 in the old gym. On February 28 the Lenten meal will include pulled pork, baked beans, chips, and desserts provided by the families signed up to work.

Throughout all these activities the love of Jesus will shine forth. Whatever you do this month put your love for Jesus first!

Blessings to you this month, *DCE Bill Becker*

Fund-Raising Barbecue

A barbecue will be held in our school parking lot on Sunday, February 18, beginning at 10:15 a.m. with pork steaks, brats, potato salad, slaw, mac-n-cheese and baked beans. There also will a free-will offering bake sale. Proceeds will be supported by Thrivent and will be used to assist the Prigge family members with their medical expenses.

From the Principal’s Pen

Christmas break was a wonderful time to celebrate the miracle of Christ’s birth and to reconnect, relax, and rejuvenate. That being said, we returned to school on January 4 looking forward to opportunities to serve the congregation and community by spreading the the gospel message.

January meant many basketball tournaments. Our girls’ and boys’ basketball teams both participated in the Holy Cross Collinsville’s 7th grade tournament with our young men bringing home the third place trophy and our young ladies finishing second in their side of the tournament. Since then, our girls have ended their season and have been preparing for their volleyball season. The boys have been busy with the Okaw Valley Conference Tournament and the All-Lutheran Tournament; finishing respectively as 2nd place in the conference tournament and 3rd place contest at the ALT in Steeleville. Most recently they have been competing in the SIJHSAA regional tournament but did lose the semi-final game.

Aside from sports January has been a very busy month as we, as a committee, worked to fill the vacancy that arose in the Pastoral Administrative Assistant position. We were blessed to have two good interviewees. We thank God that He has given us Ms. Cynthia Wilson to fill that position. She has undertaken the many new tasks of the position and is proving to be a very quick learner.

In January we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week! Our theme for the week was “Connected.” Each day we had a different focus: Monday- Connected to Christ; Tuesday- Connected to the Father and His Creation; Wednesday- Connected to the Spirit and His Fruitful Gifts; Thursday- Connected to the Church; and Friday- Connected to His Commission. Each day we gathered as a whole school in the new gym for announcements, prayers, pledges, devotions and song. It was great having our youngest students leading us in familiar songs the students all sang when they were in the younger grades. The devotions were led by students in the upper grades. As in the past, each day we have dressed in special clothes: Monday- Comfy Cozy Day; Tuesday- Class Color Day; Wednesday- Soccer Mom vs. BBQ Dad; Thursday- Tourist Day; and Friday- Decades Day or 100th day wear multiples. Our eighth graders have been very involved in helping to create our National Lutheran Schools Week activities and themes and very much enjoyed helping as “teachers” in classrooms. A highlight of the week was a new event, “Name that Tune” Lutheran edition. Each day there were baby item donations brought to school by students. Our gifts will go to the local Life

Network Office and will help families in need. We are so blessed by our Lutheran school and give thanks that we can celebrate with other Lutheran schools in the joy of sharing the good news of Jesus being our Savior!

The Kindergarten held their 100-day celebration on January 26. We encouraged all of our students to join in the day by wearing their Kindergarten 100-day t-shirt; or holding it up in front of them in the case of some of our junior high students. We are happy to be able to celebrate this event with our guests! The fun activities make the day very memorable for our students and parents.

The month of February will keep us busy. February brings us Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday and our students and faculty are generous in sharing the love of Christ with others. Please remember your loved ones at home!

On February 7 we will host the "St. John's Lutheran School Open House". We cordially invite all congregation and family members to visit us on this night from 4-7 pm. We will have preschool and kindergarten preregistration this evening as well as snacks in classrooms and soup and hotdogs in the school gymnasium. Food will be served from 5-7 p.m.

We have an 11:20 a.m. early dismissal day on February 16 and will celebrate Presidents' Day with no school on February 19. Our boys will continue to play basketball and will attend the tournament in Peoria the weekend of February 17. The girls have a very active schedule of volleyball with tournaments at all levels on various weekends. Please watch the church bulletin, Cougar Tracks, and [athletics calendar](#) on our [school's website](#) for dates and times.

We are blessed to be a blessing, Mr. Justin Palm

Euchre Tournament

Sunday February 25 at 1:00 p.m.; Doors Open at 12 noon
Registration noon – 1:00 Fundraiser for SJL Class of 2026

7 games, 12 hands per round (3 rounds = 1 game)

Partners randomly rotated each round

Team points follow player for all rounds

Prizes awarded for top 3 places

\$15 registration per person (pay at door, cash only)

Food noon- 3 p.m. (TO GO Orders are Open to the Public)

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Slaw, and Potato Salad by
SLAM Catering

Location: St. John's Lutheran School Old Gym

For reservations contact Chrystal Kiefer at 618-201-7683
(call or text), or email at ChrystalKiefer@gmail.com

Evening Guild News

Evening Guild Gathering & Quilt Project will be on Tuesday, February 20. We will start assembling and tying quilts from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Devotions will be led by Paula Wiley, followed by our business meeting at 1:00 p.m. We will not have an evening gathering in February. Our quilt-making day had to be canceled in January.

On Monday, February 5, we need help to make German Potato Salad for FS beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The quilting schedule for February 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.

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.

Men's Club

St. John's Men's Club will gather on Thursday, February 8 at 7 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. We will watch "The Chase to 325" the story of St. Louis Cardinals teammates Yadier Molina and Adam Wainwright's journey to Major League Baseball history. There will be concession stand favorites to consume while watching. Join us for a time of fun, food and fellowship and perhaps some surprises.

Junior Youth

The Junior Youth (grades 4-8) will go to Hidden Valley in Eureka, Missouri on Monday, February 19 (Presidents' Day) for snow tubing. They will leave the school parking lot at 8:15 a.m. and return to school by 2 p.m. The cost is \$15 per child. Tickets have been ordered but more can be purchased by contacting Erin Kuehn.

Senior Youth

In place of our regular monthly meeting, we will go paint balling on Sunday, February 18th. Time is to be determined yet.

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*



On Sunday, January 28, St. John's Senior Youth Life committee along with other members of the Senior Youth packaged 18 canvas bags with kitchen towels, bath towels, bed sheets, kitchen utensils, etc. to donate to Zoe's Home, a Lutheran maternity home in Clinton, Missouri. From left to right are Karson Liefer, Sam Roscow, Blake Henry, Jakob Biffar, MaKayla Liefer, Christine Liefer, Hailey Guebert and Brody Stellhorn.

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, New Heavens and a New Earth, Philemon, Purses, The Resurrection in Revelation, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, and Word Dwellers.

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance for January-
3-Year-old: Eve Guebert, Lillian Guebert, Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien, Sophia Uffelmann; 4-Year-old: Nolan Kassing, Case Uffelmann; Second Grade: Elaina Uffelmann; Third Grade: Brewer Krick, Liza Wagner; Natalie Kassing, Sydney Krick, Holden Wagner; Eighth Grade: Sydney Kassing. 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.

We Bid a Fond Farewell

- January 9 Death of Lorine Reinhardt
- January 10 Death of Edna Moeller
- January 16 Death of Kenneth Ruwald
- January 17 Death of Virginia Liefer
- January 19 Death of Sharon DeRousse
- January 20 Death of Chad Grohmann

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).*

Acolyte Schedule

- Sat. Feb. 3 5 p.m. Colton Albert
- Sun. Feb. 4 8 a.m. Easton Ruebusch
10:30 a.m. Clare Carnahan
- Sat. Feb. 10 5 p.m. Sutton Jones
- Sun. Feb. 11 8 a.m. Evan Muench
10:30 a.m. Katelynn Braun
- Wed. Feb. 14 8:30 a.m. Layla Kilpatrick
7:00 p.m. Charlie Muench
- Sat. Feb. 17 5 p.m. Amelia Cheek
- Sun. Feb. 18 8 a.m. Carson Moll
10:30 a.m. Brian Liefer
- Wed. Feb. 21 8:30 a.m. Hollis Wolfmeier
7:00 p.m. Loreli Aubuchon
- Sat. Feb. 24 5 p.m. Addison Brier
- Sun. Feb. 25 8 a.m. Joey Biffar
10:30 a.m. Colin Korando
- Wed. Feb. 28 8:30 a.m. Sophia Zeiger
7:00 p.m. Case Hess
- Sat. March 2 5 p.m. Payton Liefer
- Sun. March 3 8 a.m. Mallory Arbeiter
10:30 p.m. Norah Wagner

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

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!

Worship Greeters

Sat. Feb. 3	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Feb. 4	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat. Feb. 10	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Feb. 11	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. Feb. 17	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Feb. 18	8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. Feb. 24	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Feb. 25	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Vernitta Wolter / Cindy Ebers
Sat., March 2	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. March 3	8 a.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse 10:30 p.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) and special services. The only 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!

Midweek Bible Classes

Our midweek Bible classes are Wednesday Women who meet at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday evening's class on 2nd Chronicles meets at 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday morning's class meets at 7:30 a.m. All of these classes meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the second and fourth (10th and 24th) Saturdays in February as we continue to study the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

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 sidlcmsmessage@gmail.com Thank you!!

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.

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.



The Temptation of Christ by Satan
A Woodcut by Schnorr von Carolsfeld from
Bibel in Bildern, 1860

A Martyr's Death, the Hero's Life

Join other men in Christian fellowship on April 4-7 at Lakeview Villages in Seymour, Indiana as Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller teaches us about what Martin Luther called the "pattern of the true Christian life." The martyrs of the early church still preach to us with their lives, their lips, and their blood – encouraging us to live a life of witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Get away and enjoy God's great creation, eat like a king at our hog roast, join in good-natured brotherly competition and much more. Visit www.mensgathering.us for info and registration.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“Caring for My Neighbor”

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added). We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

Choir Concert

The Singing Saints of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri, will be in concert on Friday, February 23, 7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Missouri. This will begin the choir’s annual spring tour. The concert is free, but an offering to support the choir’s expenses will be taken.

Hymn Festival at Concordia Seminary

You are invited to “The Ashes Go on Singing”—A Hymn Festival on the Hymns of Martin Luther at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. Led by the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, *Laudamus* and an orchestra of brass, strings, woodwinds and organ, this hymn festival will celebrate five centuries of singing the hymns of Martin Luther. Peter Reske, senior editor of music/worship at Concordia Publishing House, will provide narration.

LCMS Foundation

A good gift plan within one’s estate plan can help manage taxation.

Kelly and Lisa were having lunch. Both of their husbands have passed in the last couple of years, and they are learning to take over the responsibility for finances. This has been a big transition for both.

Kelly said to Lisa, “I have adapted well. I have come to appreciate all that Howard did all those years. The one thing that still intimidates me is the taxes. I am thankful I have a good tax preparer that makes this less stressful.”

Lisa responded, “For the first time in my life I am paying more attention to taxes as well. In my mind, I never really made the connection between my contributions to church and other ministries and the amount of tax we pay. This year my church is in a campaign to enable a building expansion for more ministry. Joe and I had already settled on a certain portion of our estate that we would give to our church. My tax lady told me that if I give some of that now in the campaign, I can reduce my income taxes this year by 60%. I think that will make a difference in paying for the higher-than-expected pharmacy bills I have been having. It is amazing how the Lord provides His gifts at just the right time, in the right way.”

Is the Lord leading you to use His gifts for ministry purposes? Would you like to discuss whether gifts now or in the future make more sense, especially considering taxes? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor Scott Radden can help. Contact him at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for info or to start your plan.



February Church and School Calendar

Thursday, February 1-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
6:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball (A & C) at St. John Lutheran-Chester
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, February 2- B Team Volleyball tournament at Rocher

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel service in the new gym

Saturday, February 3-

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

SUNDAY, February 4-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes; Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service
6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

Monday, February 5-

2:00 p.m. Evening Guild makes potato salad
6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting in the school library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meets in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 6-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference in Jacob
4:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Evansville

Wednesday, February 7-

7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
4-7 p.m. School Open House with soup and desserts
7:15 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in school library
7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 8-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:00 p.m. Holy Communion service at church
5:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball (A & C) at St. Libory
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
7:00 p.m. Men's Club Gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 9- V-ball tournies; A @ St. Mary's; C @ RBC

9:00 a.m. All-School Chapel service in the new gym

Saturday, February 10-

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

SUNDAY, February 11- The Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes; Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
TBD: Adult Instruction Class in the school library

Monday, February 12- Language Arts Festival

4:15 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Valmeyer
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, February 13-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher League in the school cafeteria

Wednesday, February 14- Ash Wednesday

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School confirmation classes
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion 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
5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Holy Communion service at church

Thursday, February 15-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

5:30 p.m. Volleyball at home vs. Coulterville
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, February 16- Boys' Basketball Tournament in Peoria Girls' B team volleyball tournament here

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel in the new gym
11:20 a.m. Early school dismissal and 12:45 p.m. Faculty meeting

Saturday, February 17-

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

SUNDAY, February 18-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible Class
10:15 a.m. Fundraising BBQ for Prigge family at school
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

TBD Noon Senior Youth paintballing

6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

Monday, February 19- No School! Presidents' Day

8:15 a.m. Junior Youth to Hidden Valley for snowboarding
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the school library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, February 20-

9 a.m. Evening Guild quilt tying & 1 p.m. meeting Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Prairie duRocher

Wednesday, February 21-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Confirmation classes
8:30 a.m. Midweek Lenten 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
5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service at church

Thursday, February 22-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
5:30 p.m. Girl's Volleyball at home versus Steeleville
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, February 23- Vball A @ St. John-Chester; C @ home

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel in new gym

Saturday, February 24-

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

SUNDAY, February 25- 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
1:00 p.m. Euchre Tournament in the school's old gym
6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

Monday, February 26-

6:00 p.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting in school library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, February 27-

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Garden Place
5:30 p.m. Girls' volleyball at home versus Red Bud Catholic

Wednesday, February 28-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Confirmation classes
8:30 a.m. Midweek Lenten 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
5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service at church

Thursday, February 29-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony