

The Epistle

JULY 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 Hour Ministries

"Practical Love" by Dr. Kari Vo

But Jesus put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with Him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand He said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. And He strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5:40-43)

I love how practical Jesus is after He raises someone from the dead. Here He reminds the little girl's parents to give her something to eat; I wonder how long it would have taken them to think of that on their own? Jesus doesn't wait to see; He just gently points them in the right direction.

This is not the behavior of a man who's looking for applause for the great miracle He's just done! No, His mind is all on the needs of the people He's serving. He did the miracle because He loved them; and now that the crisis is over, He moves on to the next thing they need.

You can even see Jesus doing this at His own resurrection. He sends an angel to roll back the stone—not to help Jesus get out, He was already gone by then; but to help the women who were on their way. He knows they aren't strong enough to move the stone, and He also knows they can't cope with the soldiers who are guarding it; but the angel deals with both problems easily.

What a wonderful God we have, always thinking of our needs, even when we are lost in amazement at the wonders He has done! Surely, this is a love we can never praise too much. It's the same love that led Him to leave heaven and become a Man, our Savior Jesus—who came to teach and to preach and to heal, and ultimately, to lay down His life for us all on the cross. By His death and resurrection He broke the power of death over the whole human race, for everyone who will trust in Him to help.

WE PRAY: Thank You, Lord, for meeting my needs of body, mind and spirit. Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

Thank you to those who have kept me in your prayers and responded with your comments as I have been considering a divine call to teach at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri. I will have a decision to share with you on Monday, July 1.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

+++++

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

Time is flying by as it is already July. Thinking about July, what comes to mind? The 4th of July. The day America declared Independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. It is a day and time for us to celebrate (parties, parades, fireworks, etc.). We celebrate, remember, and are thankful for our country, our freedom, the men and women who died fighting for it, and those who continue to fight for it.

The summer months and nicer weather are generally when people think about taking time off. We look forward to some needed time off from work and getting away to relax. Yet this can become a problem. It is one thing for us to take a holiday or even a day or two for a long weekend. However, it often becomes harder the more days we want to take.

Why? Maybe we feel we will miss out on something happening. Perhaps we have become workaholics. Maybe we think everything will fall apart if we are not there. It could also be the times in which we live. Times in which our society, or culture, tries to dictate our values. A

society, amongst other things, that teaches us that we find our identity in our work. What does it say about us as a person if we do not stay home, keep working, and forfeit our time off?

This is a problem because we are made to feel and think we need to be like the bunny in the old Energizer commercials. We place pressure on ourselves to keep going, and going, and going ... We are made to feel if we are not working or doing something at all times, then something is wrong. This leads to becoming tired, stressed out, and overworked. It can make us irritable and burnt out to where we cannot go on anymore. This can even lead to illnesses and other medical issues.

Look at ourselves. We are letting worldly things get ahold of us. We are sacrificing our relationship with our Almighty God. The One who taught us, after creating the world in six days, God took a day of rest. If our Almighty and Everlasting God does this to teach us how things should be done, why are we not doing it? Because we allow ourselves to fall into the trap that we think worldly things are more important than heavenly things. But they are not.

A little graphic example to put things in perspective. God forbid, what if we were to die tomorrow? What would happen? Would our employer shut down their business? Of course not, because we are replaceable. Our employer likely would not miss a beat. They would keep on functioning just as they are today. Take advice from the Lord and take the time we have coming before it is too late. When it is too late, there is nothing we can do. We cannot go back in time and most employers will not have any sympathy for our situation.

How awesome it is to know that we have a God who would selflessly send His one and only Son to pay the cost to all of us free. Take a moment and think about that. Take time for family and friends. Take time to help others. Most importantly, take time for yourselves. Take time to unburden and rejuvenate. Give it a try. God can do greater things through His people who have received rest and restoration and are shining examples of what it means to be a Christian.

God's blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

LWML District Convention Young Women Reps

We are excited to offer the opportunity for Young Woman Representatives (YWR) from St. John's congregation, ages 22 – 35, to assist in the LWML SID Convention on September 13 and 14. If you are interested in being a YWR, please text Sharon Guebert at 618-660-7803 for details and be a part of this enriching experience.

July Servers

Flowers: Rebekah and Christine Liefer
Paraments: Irma Birkner Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Out of the Office During July

Pastor Nebel: July 7 (pm)-9 and 25-31
Justin Palm: July 3, 5 and 26-31
Bill Becker: July 13-22
Lindsey Hudak: July 11-14
Sara Shepherd: July 5
Cynthia Wilson: July 8, 18 & Fridays

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

June 9 Baptism of Bodie David Nehrt

We Bid a Fond Farewell

June 3 Transfer of Kole Liefer to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Des Peres, Missouri
June 3 Release of Anita Farmer

From Your Director of Christian Education

“For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.”
Romans 6:7-9 ESV.

The United States of America will celebrate 248 years of freedom on July 4. The freedom Christ won for us with His death on the cross has earned us an eternal freedom from sin, death, and the devil.

The VBS held in June was a success thanks to so many helpers, decorators, and attendees. A complete report will be given at the Voter's meeting later this month. I am offering a Lego camp for those students who will be entering grades three through five. This will be held July 8-12 and limited to the first 30 students that register. The \$10 cost will go towards snacks, batteries, and supplies. We will meet in the science/art room from 9:00-10:15 a.m. Please RSVP to 618-282-2958. Summer Sunday school continues from the library at school from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and will be held July 7 and 28.

I will be on vacation July 13-22 with my family.

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

Have a blessed month! In His service,

DCE Bill Becker

Vacation Bible School- Let's Celebrate With Our Savior



Vacation Bible School students sing during the opening of the first day of VBS on June 17 (above) and again on the stage as part of the Closing Service of VBS on June 21 (below).



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).*

Summer Music Opportunities

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

Once again, I'm inviting anyone who enjoys singing to take part in our "Summer Singers" group! (even if it's just for one Sunday) You do not have to be a regular choir member to participate! We will sing for the following worship services: Sunday, July 21st (8 AM), and Sunday, August 4th (10:30 AM). We will meet a half an hour before each service to practice the song. The songs we sing will be fairly simple, most likely unison, but we can add some part-singing if there is interest. Kids and youth are welcome to come sing too!!

In addition to the Summer Singers, I'm inviting anyone with musical talent to share their gifts with the congregation during worship this summer! If you are interested, contact me and we can set something up! If you are interested in serving the congregation musically in any way during the summer months, please let me know!

Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music

From the Principal's Pen

June proved to be a very busy month as we worked to paint the 300 hallway and room 401 which will be the homeroom for Mrs. Sara Shepherd. Thank you to Bob, Will, Sara, and Amanda who helped beautify and improve our school building. A huge thank you also goes out to Cindy Steele, Deitt Schneider, and Bill Becker who helped trim the all of the bushes around the school building and then also removed the trimmings; there are nearly 50 bushes in total. Waxing has begun at school. Thank you to Bob Schamm, Will Krick, and the many teachers and daycare workers that have moved items out and then back into classrooms to prepare the school for waxing which we hope to finish by July 7th. Finally, a thank you to all the helpers (Deitt Schneider, Martha Krick, Will Krick, Betty Schmitz, Lisa Quinn, Amanda Falkenheim, Kathy Liefer, Bob Schramm, Tina Arbeiter, Jessica Schoemann, Diane Gubert, Sharon Guebert, and Justin Palm) who have helped to maintain the landscaping at church and school. We welcome any and all helpers to maintain the landscaping which is a huge cost savings to the church and school. Our school would not be able to be what it is without the help of so many volunteers and/or workers who go above and beyond their called duties.

St. John's Lutheran Church recently held VBS under the theme "Celebrate the Savior" June 17-21. On average 95 students attended each day and over 52 helpers assisted in the week-long program. A closing service was held on Friday, June 21 in the old gym. A huge thank you to William Becker who planned all the decorations, volunteers, activities, and snacks amid the busy school schedule during the summer.

The Firemen's Parade was a great success this year. We were blessed to have a presence in the parade and spread the word about St. John's Lutheran Church and School. We hope to reach out to over 500 people through stress balls, sunglasses, and shirts that we distributed along the parade route. A new outreach during the parade is having Jennie Williamson singing gospel music on our parade float. Thank you to the many walkers, riders, and drivers who represented our church and school. All members are welcome to join us for the parade.

Registration/Book Night will be Wednesday, July 10 from 4-7 p.m. in the school's new gym lobby. The secretaries have worked to prepare items to get you all the needed financial and information items you will need for the year. New this year is that we will accept credit card payments. We hope to see many families that evening. Should you be out of town that week, please call the school office or come in during regular school office hours, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Mr. Becker will host a Lego/Stem Camp July 8-12. This camp has proven to be a fun and mind stimulating time! There are a limited amount spots available so be sure to sign up soon for this great opportunity!

A group has been and will be continuing to work on technical improvements to our WiFi system so we can more fully utilize the bandwidth that we are paying for each month. This expense will be covered by the PTL Dinner Auction. We are thankful for those who are helping to make these improvements; Ron Breier, Mike DeRousse, Andrew Stellhorn, and Josh Voss. We are thankful for this great blessing as many of the upper grade students utilize the internet for homework, research, and so much more.

The Board of Parish Education will look at some policies for the handbook as we move into July and look to have the possible changes highlighted on or around book night.

Several people have asked about our calendar for next year. The link below is from the Red Bud District #132. **Our schedule will have a half day less of attendance; with an 11:20 a.m. dismissal on April 17 for Maundy Thursday.** Our school day will be full time as in all normal years with dismissal being at 2:45 p.m. [District #132 Calendar for 2024-2025](#) and [Dates Specific to St.John's 2024-2025](#).

Enjoy the rest of your summer, stay safe and take some time for yourself and your family!

The Lord bless & strengthen you, Justin Palm

Senior Youth

Our Senior Youth will not have their regular monthly meeting in July. They will combine with the Junior Youth for an August meeting and New Member Welcome.

They continue to sell 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.

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!

Evening Guild News

The Evening Guild does not meet in June, July, or August, but the board will plan the 2024-2025 programs. We welcome your input.

The SID LWML Convention is held on September 13 and 14 at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School in Centralia. Vickie Heller and Vernitta Wolter are the guild delegates. Registrations must be submitted by August 15th. All guests must send their registration form with payment to Marie Voges. Registration forms are at the church entrance, or you can print them by going to www.sidlwml.org under convention news.

The quilting schedule for July is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the quilting room.

Mark your calendar as we are planning a quilt-tying day in the fellowship on Tuesday, August 6, beginning at 9:00 am.

The LWML mission grant projects, which are in need of your support year-round, are greatly impacted by your donations. Members are encouraged to donate mites throughout the summer months. An oversized Mite Box is located on the table in the narthex. Your generous contributions will be sent to LWML/SID and will be deeply appreciated.

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.

Midweek Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall

Our Wednesday Women Bible Class is on a break until September 4. Our Wednesday evening class continues to meet at 7:30 p.m. to study Nehemiah. Our Thursday morning class meets at 7:30 a.m. to study Romans. Men's Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the first and third (6th and 20th) Saturdays in July. We will study the New Testament letters of 3rd John and Jude. Moms Bible Study will be on a break until school starts.

God Bless America!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says:

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments" (Exodus 20:5-6).

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Ephesians 6:1-3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

LCMS Foundation

Becky received a frantic text message from her friend Kim. "I need to schedule an appointment with my attorney to update things after Bill died and I am scared to death." Becky replied, "Why are you scared?" Kim shared, "It has been twenty years since I set foot in an attorney's office and at that time, they made me feel so dumb for not understanding basic legal process." Becky responded, "Sounds like you had the wrong attorney."

This is a frequent scenario played over and over in the minds of many that keep them from creating or updating their estate plans. Most attorneys are probably dismayed to hear such things, as they really only want to help their clients achieve their goals. However, this situation illustrates that some preparation can alleviate some of this anxiety.

You don't set out to replace your deck in your backyard without educating yourself first. You visit stores and look at the variety of materials. You read articles about the best choices. You might watch videos to elevate your familiarity. The same is true for your estate plan.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor has a great resource that outlines the basic elements of an estate plan and highlights decisions you will need to make along the path toward completion. Instead of being put on the spot in a timed appointment in an attorney's office, you can begin thinking and praying about what you believe is your goal.

Conversations with your Gift Planning Counselor can help you clarify your thoughts. With anticipation and even excitement, you can look forward to that attorney visit, because you know it is helping you to move forward in being a faithful steward of the gifts God has placed in your life to manage for Him, blessing the family you love and the ministries you care about. To get started on your preparation, contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnf.org for more info or to start your plan.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. June 29	5 p.m. Ella Cowell
Sun. June 30	8 a.m. Jacob Liefer 10:30 a.m. Brynlee Liefer
Sat. July 6	5 p.m. Liam Kilpatrick
Sun. July 7	8 a.m. Aubrey Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Molly Kuehn
Sat. July 13	5 p.m. Addy Schloemann
Sun. July 14	8 a.m. Blaine Rohlfig 10:30 p.m. Maya Macbeth
Sat. July 20	5 p.m. Case Hess

Sun. July 21 8 a.m. Elle Sutton
10:30 a.m. Brooke Wolter

Sat. July 27 5 p.m. Sydney Kassing

Sun. July 28 8 a.m. Easton Ruebusch
10:30 a.m. Clare Carnahan

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. June 29 5 p.m. Kim and Addison Breier
Sun. June 30 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel

Sat. July 6 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. July 7 8 a.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

Sat. July 13 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. July 14 8 a.m. Cindy Steele
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert

Sat., July 20 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. July 21 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

Sat. July 27 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. July 28 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer
10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt

We need a person to serve as a greeter along with Cindy Steele for the 8 a.m. service and a couple for the same service. This will be once every five weeks. The only requirements, expectations and duties are to stand for about 15 minutes, smile and greet people as they enter the church.

July Church and School Calendar

Saturday, June 29-

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

SUNDAY, June 30-

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

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

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

4:00 p.m. Look for our participation in the Fireman's Parade

Monday, July 1-

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

Tuesday, July 2-

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

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

Wednesday, July 3-

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

Thursday, July 4- Happy Birthday America! Office Closed

Saturday, July 6-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (3rd John)

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

SUNDAY, July 7-

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

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

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, July 8- Pastor Nebel on vacation thru the 9th

9-10:15 a.m. Lego Camp (school's Creative Learning Lab)

8:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting in the school library

Tuesday, July 9-

9-10:15 a.m. Lego Camp (school's Creative Learning Lab)

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

Wednesday, July 10-

9-10:15 a.m. Lego Camp (school's Creative Learning Lab)

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

4-7 p.m. School Registration in the new gym lobby

7:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in the library

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Nehemiah)

Thursday, July 11-

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

9-10:15 a.m. Lego Camp (school's Creative Learning Lab)

Friday, July 12-

9-10:15 a.m. Lego Camp (school's Creative Learning Lab)

Saturday, July 13- Bill Becker on vacation thru the 22nd

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 14- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Classes (No Summer Sunday School)

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

Monday, July 15-

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

Tuesday, July 16-

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

Wednesday, July 17-

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

7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Nehemiah)

Thursday, July 18-

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

Saturday, July 20-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (Jude)

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

SUNDAY, July 21-

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

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class (No Summer Sunday School)

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, July 22- Pastor Nowak off today

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

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

Tuesday, July 23-

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

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

Wednesday, July 24-

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

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

Thursday, July 25- Pastor Nebel on vacation thru the 31st

Saturday, July 27-

9:00 a.m. Pastor Nebel at SID Board of Directors meeting

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 28-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

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

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

Website Bible Studies for Summer Study

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, Popular Proverbial Phrases Inspired by Bible Passages, Purses, The Resurrection in Revelation, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, and Word Dwellers.