

The Epistle

AUGUST 2026

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.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.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 Winkelman, 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

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before Me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are My witnesses! Is there a God besides Me? There is no Rock; I know not any." (Isaiah 44:6-8)

Some time ago I deliberately went looking in ancient literature, because I was wondering: How did those who worshipped idols feel about their gods? What was it like to worship Ishtar or Marduk or Baal—from the inside?

I can't claim to have made an exhaustive search, but I did look around for quite a while, trying to find some writing that would answer my question. I finally found one poet—a woman named Enheduanna, who was a high priestess of the moon goddess Inanna. And she wrote about her goddess. So I settled down to read her poetry.

And I was horrified. Because there was plenty of praise, as you'd expect—praise of Inanna's beauty, of her power, and so forth. But then there were sections that amounted to "You murder really well!" I couldn't find

anything that looked like more than simple flattery—the kind of thing you'd write if you were buttering up someone you thought was real, and strong, and dangerous. The poet treated her goddess kind of like a hungry tiger, but an intelligent one.

What was missing? Well, the love relationship that we know with the Lord. There was no mention of any compassion, mercy, pity, or lovingkindness. And so it was no surprise that the poet showed no signs of loving her goddess, either. How could you love someone who didn't love you? At most you'd want to placate them—keep them happy through praise and sacrifices, so they wouldn't destroy you.

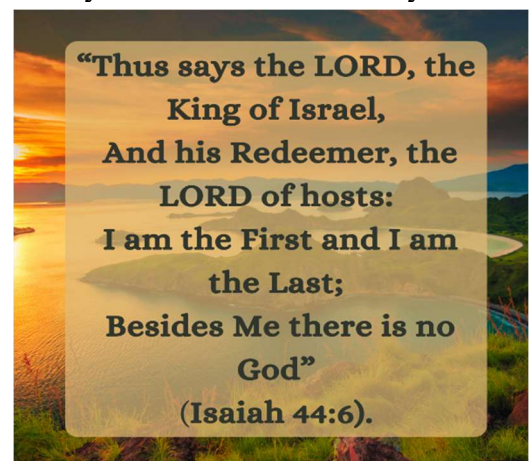
Maybe that's why the Lord goes to such lengths in today's reading from Isaiah, explaining to His people that there are no other gods. "There's nobody out there for you to be afraid of," He says. "I'm the only God, and all the idols you've been afraid of are fakes. Stop worrying. Stop flattering them and sacrificing to them because you're afraid. Don't be afraid anymore! Come to Me, because I'm real, and I love you, and I care for you."

That is the difference between the Lord and the ancient idols. They keep their worshippers in fear; the real God says, "Fear not, nor be afraid." They demand sacrifices; the real God sacrifices Himself in order to redeem His people. They take lives; God gives us life through His own suffering, death, and resurrection.

And what about our modern idols? What about money? Power? Military might? Social clout and popularity? We aren't much more advanced than our ancestors, are we? Because none of those idols will give us the love, the kindness, the everlasting life that we crave, either. When it comes to a choice between the Lord and the idols, ancient or modern, there's only one God worth loving. And He is the One who came into our world to save us.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, bring me to know You better, that I may love and trust You without fear. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.



FROM THE DESK OF REV. MARK WINKELMAN

A New Season, A Renewed Commitment

August has a way of reminding us that new beginnings are gifts from God. The school bells ring once again, calendars begin to fill, sports practices resume, and confirmation classes begin. As the less structured time of summer ends, routines return. So, as we establish new schedules, it is worth asking: What place will Christ and His Church have in our daily life?

It is often said that we make time for what we value most. While our family calendars quickly fill with school, work, and activities, our Lord continues to invite us to gather around His Word and Sacraments. In worship, Christ serves us with His forgiveness, strengthens our faith, and equips us for lives of loving service. This is not another obligation to squeeze into an already busy week—it is the very source of strength for everything else we do.

As confirmation classes begin, our young people will spend time learning the truths of God's Word and the riches of Luther's Small Catechism. Yet confirmation is never meant to be a program that stands alone. The most important classroom for faith is the home, where parents and grandparents pray, read Scripture, and bring their children regularly to worship. The lessons learned in class are reinforced as families gather together before God's altar week after week, on Wednesday evenings, Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings.

This new start also reminds us that the ministry of St. John's is a shared ministry. God has richly blessed our congregation with a church, school, and early childhood ministry that proclaim Christ to people of every generation. These ministries flourish because God's people faithfully support them with their prayers, their time, and their financial gifts.

Perhaps this fall is an opportunity to ask how God might use you. Could you help welcome visitors on Sunday mornings? Assist with Sunday School or youth events? Volunteer at school events? Join a Bible study? Encourage someone who has been absent from worship? Every act of service, no matter how small it may seem, becomes another way God blesses His people.

Likewise, faithful stewardship of our offerings allows the Gospel to continue being proclaimed in our community and beyond. Each offering supports all that we do in Christian education, outreach, care for those in need, and the daily work of sharing the love of Christ with children, families, and neighbors.

As we begin this new season together, I pray it's not simply a restart of our schedules. I hope it's a renewal of our commitment to the One who first committed Himself

to us. Jesus has given everything for our salvation. He continues to meet us in His Word and Sacraments, forgiving our sins and strengthening our faith. May this August be the beginning of renewed worship, deeper discipleship, joyful service, and generous support for the ministry God has entrusted to St. John's Lutheran Church and School.

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24–25).

FROM THE DESK OF REV. BRIAN NOWAK

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

As August begins, many look towards the start of a new school year. I pray that you found your summer break to be a time to relax and have some fun. I hope everyone was able to find time to visit with family and friends.

As some look forward to school getting back underway, I know some are not so excited. This can be a stressful time for some. That is because a whole new routine needs to be established. There is likely an earlier bedtime, an earlier wake-up time, times when you need to be in certain classes, and so on. It can be tough adjusting to a new routine, but don't worry, you will be alright.

Speaking of routines, how is your routine going? The one where you are spending time in daily prayer and reading God's Word? If you have not yet started these new routines, let me encourage you to do so right now. The sooner you get started, the easier it will become. By the way, if you start doing this right now, you can stop guilt-ing yourself about not doing it. So, why are you thinking about it? Stop using the excuse that "I'll start tomorrow" and instead, start right now. After you are done, set a timer to do it again tomorrow.

There is one other routine we all need to do a better job at, and that is in our Church attendance. As the summer months come, we get caught up in the things we have planned. Things like sports games and practices, sleeping in late, family get-togethers, vacations, and so on. These things take up space in our days and often get in the way of our worship attendance. It is easy to skip out on church and say "it is OK, I'll go next week." When next week comes, there will be another excuse as to why we are not able to attend church that week. Let us all get back into the routine of attending weekly worship. God misses you and wants to see and hear you in church.

Again, as the kids get used to a new routine, you can start one as well. This is a great opportunity to start yet another helpful routine. Helpful for your personal and

spiritual growth. Again, nothing is greater than attending church weekly, being in God's Word, and praying to Him daily.

God's Blessings, Pastor Brian Nowak

From Your Director of Christian Education

Another new school year is fast approaching. I thank God for the 33rd year of ministry that I will be starting. It seems that just yesterday I began my career in the inner city of Chicago! My duties will include teaching religion and memory to fourth grade. I will also serve as a resource person for Ms. Birkner's kindergarten religion class. I will continue to teach 6th grade Public School Confirmation class on Wednesdays. I will help cover the office daily in the morning, and I will continue getting this monthly church newsletter out. I will also continue with planning the eighth-grade class trip and coordinating fundraising with the parents. My role as Director of Christian Education (DCE) remains the same currently.

I was fortunate enough to attend the LCMS Synodical Convention in Phoenix, Arizona July 18-23. I have included a reflection on the proceedings in another article.

Sunday school teachers will meet on Monday, August 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the school's library to begin making plans for the new school year. Rally Day will be held Sunday, August 16 starting at 9:30a.m. We will gather in the new gym and weather permitting we will be outside for fun and snacks.

The Senior Youth is planning a fundraising BBQ event on Sunday, August 16. Serving will start at 10:15 a.m. and will last until we run out.

On Monday, August 17, I would like to schedule class trip/fundraising meetings. We will start at 6:00p.m. with 8th grade, 6:30p.m. for 7th grade, 7:00p.m. for 6th grade, and 7:30p.m. for 5th grade. All meetings will be in the school cafeteria.

I close with the verse that is our school year theme from Colossians 2:6-7 "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

God's Blessing, DCE Bill Becker



From the LCMS Foundation

Renee and Fran were chatting as they walked out of Church last Sunday. Renee said, "I finally made the decision to move into a retirement community. My house was just getting to be too much for me, especially after Frank went to be with the Lord. But I just don't know where to get started on the packing. I have lived in that house for thirty years and there is so much stuff to sort through. I'm having a hard time starting." Fran replied, "If you would like, I can come help. I have a lot of boxes, and we can just pick off one room at a time." Renee said, "Oh that would be lovely." The process began on Wednesday with lots of laughter and even a few tears.

There are many "Big Things" in life that become easier to begin if we just have someone along with us. Christian estate planning is one of those. It requires organization of your information. It includes conversations about what you want to accomplish. It culminates in putting together legal documents that seem powerful, and maybe even a little scary.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be your friend who will come along your side to get started. They have expertise and training in helping you move through each step of the process so that you can feel confident about the finished product when you sign documents at your attorney (if necessary). Instead of living with the burden of your procrastination, you can move forward, putting together a faithful stewardship plan directing the gifts the Lord has entrusted to you. For assistance, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Define Your Life by How You Give: Originally Published in August 2023

Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we

are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).



Bell Choir Ringer Needed in the Fall!

Bell Choir will begin their new season in September! **For the Fall and Christmas months (September-December, and possibly first weekend of January) we will need a new ringer to play bells C5 and B4, which are medium/large size and notated in the bass clef.**

Bell Choir practices every Thursday (beginning on Sept. 10th) starting at 6 pm and lasts about 45 minutes to an hour. We play on average about 2 worship services a month, plus the Wednesday evening Thanksgiving service on November 25th. I work with the members to schedule services that work for everyone’s availability!

Ringers must have the ability to count and keep a steady beat. Music reading is NOT a requirement as I can highlight the notes played and write in the counts. If you’re interested or know someone who might be, please contact Mrs. Lindsey Hudak. Please consider helping out the Bell Choir during the Fall and Christmas months!

A Musical Moment

Welcome to August! I hope that everyone had a great summer break filled with fun and relaxation. Now it’s time to start making the final preparations for the upcoming school year! Here, at St. John’s our first day is Tuesday, August 11th. I will start teaching my music classes the following day, Wednesday, August 12th. I’m really looking forward to teaching music for Grades K-8 again! If you ever have any questions or concerns related

to your child(ren)’s music education here, please reach out! I am an open book.

I’ve scheduled Grades K-2 and 3-8 choirs to sing in church in September! Look for more information coming out about that once school begins! I will have Google Forms that parents can fill out indicating whether or not their child(ren) can sing.

I’ve also been in touch with Matt Fischer, the band director at Red Bud Elementary and High School in hopes that we can offer band to any interested 5-8 grade students. We already have one student who participates in band at the public school. She is having a great experience and I would love to open this up to more students if there is interest! We still need to finalize details but more information will be coming out soon!

Enjoy these last few days of summer break before the rush of the school year begins! Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Principal’s Pen

Oh, the blessings and mercy Christ has bestowed upon us! On July 8, we had our book night and registered many students, and others have been registering as we move through July. It has been a blessing to see the students and families but we also remember those who moved on to new locations. We had twenty-two students graduate, which was one of our largest classes, and had two students move to schools that could better serve their needs. This, coupled with a class of fourteen new kindergarten students and five new students, allows us to have around 135 - 140 students in our kindergarten through eighth grade. St. John’s Lutheran Preschool will also have at least thirty-two students registered. Therefore, Christ can be taught to nearly 175 students in our day school, with another 122 being served in our daycare. A daycare that has a wait list for two of its age groups. Although these numbers are not finalized, they are current, and I will give you a complete breakdown when our final registration numbers are solidified.

Also, I am happy nearly all of our faculty and staff are returning, with the new additions of Reagan Birkner and Hannah Schoenbeck as our kindergarten teacher and aide; they bring many new ideas and start to gain experience in those positions, and I can not wait to see their impact. It will be very neat to be working with a former student for the first time. Also becoming part of the St. John’s teaching family is Laura Vause, who will teach our resource classes this year. All of these ladies have already been busy at school, and their classrooms are looking wonderful; none of them officially start until August, so what a blessing to have three hard-working and dedicated employees joining a staff that already has those characteristics. I am looking forward to this new

school year and am a little less nervous about it than last year, my fourth year, a year that started with a vacancy pastor. A year that was a great blessing, thanks to all the students, parents, members of the congregation, and especially our staff who helped and encouraged me. Thank you all, and I will work my very hardest to fulfill my mission here at St. John's.

Part of that mission this year will be going through the National Lutheran School Accreditation process and the State of Illinois Accreditation process. These deep looks into our school and what it does and how it can improve do add stress, but with pain there is gain. Some adjustments have already taken place as we look through the handbooks and make sure they are up to date. Others will happen as we focus on more possible changes to update everything from discipline to academic expectations. While we do much as teachers and staff, we are looking for volunteers to serve on committees and help with the visit on April 27-28. If you have interest, please contact the school office or hear a staff member or teacher out if they ask you to join their committee.

A very large thank you to Will Krick, Cheryl Fehr, and Christian Stechmesser, who have been doing a fantastic job of making sure all areas of the school are ready for August. They have gone above and beyond to help our physical facilities look their best. Our trustees are working to finish up many projects large and small: fixing roofing issues, solving storage problems, mending flag ropes, and so much more. A very large thank you to Amanda Falkenhain, Sharon Guebert, Diane Guebert, Betty Schmitz, Kathy Liefer, and Chad Buch, who have helped me to keep the landscape areas weed-free this spring and summer. Finally, thank you to Darlene Letcher, who helped update the necessary signage on the entrance doors at school. We are blessed to have wonderful facilities and thank all those who have helped to maintain them in any way so we can put our best foot forward when any visitors come to St. John's Lutheran School.

As we look to the start of next school year, we have had many changes that were made possible by the PTL and its funds from the dinner auction. First, thank you to Mike DeRousse, who helped with the ordering of Chromebooks to replace outdated models and keep our third through eighth grade students one-to-one with this technology. Thank you to Andrew Stellhorn for finding a trustworthy location to purchase new computers for five classrooms. Ed Cerny has purchased all the necessary hardware as we look to revamp our light and sound system in the old gym so the Christmas Services and the Spring Musical can be the best they possibly can be.

Thank you to Lindsey Schumacher for the lead on a new projection board company, which has allowed us to replace all seven boards in the 100 hallway over the last two years due to the reduced cost. Thank you to Will and Christian, who have mounted all the boards in the classrooms. Thank you to our summer computer recycler and to Mrs. Valleroy, who helped me figure out the correct adapters and how best to use the writing features on the new boards. All of these helpers and so many more make sure the school is always improving; we are blessed to have all of you! God's blessings, Mr. Justin Palm



Welcome Ms. Birkner

"I am so excited to be starting as the new kindergarten teacher, and I look forward to continuing the amazing program Mrs. Schmitz created. St John's Church and School have always been a big part of my life. I was baptized and confirmed here and attended Pre-K through 8th grade. It feels like home walking the halls at St. John's again and working with teachers that I had in the past.

Since I graduated high school in 2016, I have been down a few different college/career paths. I now know that all those decisions I had to make and places I've been happened, to put me in this position right now. I thank God every day for giving me this opportunity and know His timing is perfect. After getting my Bachelor's in Early Childhood, I worked as a Pre-K teacher for two years at Freeburg primary center and then did one year as the lead teacher in the baby room here at St. John's Daycare. The past three years of experience have helped me prepare to take on this kindergarten position.

It has been so much fun getting to meet all my kindergarten families this summer, and I am truly excited to get started teaching them this month. I have received many well wishes from members of the congregation, and it just reiterates that this is exactly where I am supposed to be. The generosity of everyone at St. John's has been overwhelming and I am grateful that I have grown up in this congregation and now will get to teach the future of our church/school."



LCMS Convention Proceedings

The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held July 18-23, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona. Highlights of the week included the recognition of fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia and Lutheran Mission—Australia, the decision to keep the current process for the election of the LCMS president, and the reconstitution of the Commission on Worship.

Each morning sessions began with worship, followed by Floor Committee 11 presenting the registration, credentials, and elections, a Consent calendar was also presented, and an essayist would present on various topics of the main theme “Christ is Risen Indeed.” Other floor Committees would have time to present their resolutions and amendments.

The afternoon sessions would also begin with Midday Prayer. Greetings from various LCMS offices, guests, and partner churches from around the world would also bring news and greetings. There would also be elections for various offices and Synod boards throughout our time together.

The evenings included an Ice Cream Social sponsored by LCEF, a concert by Erin Bode, Alumni Receptions, and the President Elect’s Reception.

A personal highlight was attending the Opening Worship service with my family, having Bryce along for the Convention, and having our picture taken with President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.



Pictured with the Becker family are Jeff & Bessie Fick. Jeff serves as the SID Schools and General Executive.

Public School Confirmation Classes

Public School Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, August 19th. DCE Bill Becker will teach the Sixth-grade students in room 103. We will start at 3:15 p.m. and end by 4:00 p.m. If your child is involved in sports or other after-school activities, I would be happy to accommodate an alternate time on Wednesday mornings. Students will need to bring \$10 for the chosen book, *God’s Word for You*, and \$23 for Luther’s Small Catechism that are available for purchase in the school’s office. I have lockers available for them to be kept in my classroom. Memory work will be required. Pastor Nowak will teach the seventh-grade students in the Creative Learning Lab (room 302). We will start at 3:15 p.m. and end by 4:00 p.m. If your child is involved in sports or other after-school activities, I would be happy to accommodate an alternate time on Wednesday mornings from 7:00 am until 7:45 am. Contact Pastor Nowak to confirm which time your student will be attending class. If they do not already have it, students will need to bring \$23 for the 1991 edition of Luther’s Small Catechism. This is available for purchase in the school’s office. Pastor Mark will teach the eighth-grade students in room 401 from 3:15-4pm, if that does not work please contact Pastor, he is unavailable before school. Memory work & Sermon reports will be required.

Request for Secret Angels

Secret Angels serve our 8th grade students (day school and Public-School students) by praying for their students and encouraging them in their studies with regular notes and small gifts and occasional (e.g. birthday, Halloween, Christmas, Valentine’s Day) larger gifts. You will be given a Secret Angel Information Form that the students will complete once school has begun, so you will know their interests and likes. **(Students, these forms are due back by Sept. 2)**

Please contact Mr. Becker if you are willing to serve in this way. Also, do not contact your student until after Mr. Becker has given you your information form. Secret Angels will be revealed to their students at the Rite of Confirmation.

Midweek Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall

Women’s Bible Study will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday starting August 11 and 12 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall. If interested in attending and want to know more contact Chris Doerr at 618-343-5329 or chrisdoerr9@gmail.com.

August Servers

Flowers: Irma Birkner
Paraments: Irma Birkner Cloths: Breanne Muench

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.*

Prayer of the Church

Military: Army- Zachary Beyer, Casey Vallett, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Chase Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Jessica DeMarco, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; **Navy-** Carl Muehler, Abbey Vallett; **Air Force-** Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; **Marines-** Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; **National Guard:** Jeremiah Brandt; **U.S. Coast Guard:** Brock Earl

Emergency Personnel: **Fire/EMS-** Jerre Atchison, Kaleb Barriger, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Chad Buch, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Craig Moll, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; **Police-** Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Doug Brennan

Pray for Our Family of Faith at:

Addington Place-Sparta: Kathryn Chunn; **Oak Hill-Waterloo:** Jean Menke, Martha Rohlfing, Carolyn & Elroy Stellhorn, Jody Winkelmann; **Magnolia Terrace-Waterloo:** June Lawrence; **Cedarhurst of Tesson Heights:** Ruth Hecht; **Freeburg Care Center:** Dorothy Byers, Margaret Hanebutt.

Pray for Our Family of Faith at Garden Place:

Columbia: Pat Byer, Earl (Wayne) Ellner; **Red Bud:** Elaine Guebert, Alice Hick, Omer & Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorna Schneider, Esther Williams

Pray for Our Family of Faith Confined in Home:

Don & Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, LuAnn & Rick Liefer, Pearl Liefer, Joyce Lopez, Wanda Steele, Trudy Woolbright.

ELDER ZONES FOR 2026-2027:

(Chairman, Stuart Langrehr)

Zone 1: D. Adams – R. Collins: David Reinhardt (618-967-7967)

Zone 2: S. Conboy – D/K Grohmann: Louis Stellhorn (618-623-8495)

Zone 3: N/E Grohmann – R/K Herriman: Ron Liefer (618-282-3950)

Zone 4: R. Herriman – T/E Krick: Gerald Hanebutt (618-317-4574)

Zone 5: W/M Krick – J. Maes: Kollin Liefer (618-830-7140)

Zone 6: P. Malik – L. Pensoneau: Stuart Langrehr (618-304-5082)

Zone 7: A/A Piel – D. Schrader: Kirk Liefer (618-282-8228)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader – B/C Turner: Michael Schnepel (618-363-9575)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann – A. Zeller: Tyson Russell (618-612-6227)

We Bid a Fond Farewell

6/26/2026 – Death of Joan Prigge

6/29/2026 – Death of Josh Heller

7/27/2026 – Death of Helen Winkelman

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

7/5/2026 – Baptism of Logan Matthew Lee Liefer

7/12/2026 – Baptism of Paxton Dean Merideth

7/12/2026 – Baptism of Savannah Phelps

7/19/2026 – Baptism of Callen Arbie Seibold

7/19/2026 – Baptism of Elowyn Elaine Hagan

7/19/2026 – Baptism of Eleanor Josephine Smith

7/29/2026 – Baptism of Devin Hall

New Member

7/12/2026 – Confirmation of Savannah Phelps

7/29/2026 – Confirmation of Devin Hall

Church Council

Chairman: Michael DeRousse

Vice-Chairman: Kevin Guebert

Secretary: Joan Ruwald

Treasurer: Connie Muench

Board of Finance: Becky Biffar

Elder Chair: Stuart Langrehr

Parish Education Chair: Jacob Arbeiter

Trustee Chair: Jeremy Voss

Estate Fund Chair: Thomas Mulherin

2026-2027 School Faculty & Staff

Preschool: Heather Nowak

Kindergarten: Reagan Birkner

First Grade: Rachel Miller

Second Grade: Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade: Stephanie Valleroy

Fourth Grade: Monica Snyder

Fifth Grade: Amanda Ruhmann

Resource Teacher: Lara Vause

Sixth Grade Homeroom: Doreen Schnepel

Seventh Grade Homeroom: Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben

Jr High Science: Sara Shepherd

Athletic Director: Scott Voss

Cooks: Catrena Heck and Marilyn Oettle

Before/After School Care: Courtney Schoenbeck

School Custodians: Wil Krick, Bob Schramm, Christian Stechmesser, and Cheryl Fehr

Daycare

Director: Amanda Falkenhain

Assistant Director: Kellie Shields

Kaitlyn Brown, Mycah Clements, Ava Clifford,
Christy Deterding, Brittney Eichholz, Diane Everding,
Angel Figueroa, Hailey Guebert, Zandra Harless,
Pam Henry, Dakota Hohgreffe, Molly Huether,
Betty Jones, Nicole Kadlec, Kristi Martel, Tori Muench,
Olivia Noethen, Melissa Schilling, Danielle Schmitz,
Kaitlin Schmitz, Courtney Schoenbeck, Tess Simpson,
Cailee Strong, Brooke Supancic, Madison Trask,
Emma Trost, Deanna Ward, and Amy Williams



Senior Youth

The Senior Youth are planning to have a BBQ on Aug. 16 starting at 10:15-? The menu will include pork steaks, brats, home sides of baked beans, potato salad, slaw, and mac. & cheese.

Junior Youth

Watch the bulletin and Cougar Tracks for the August activity.

Men's Club

The Men's Club's next gathering will be on Thursday, September 3 at 6:30pm. We will meet at the Lion's Club Park pavilion. The evening will begin with a BBQ meal. Fellowship to follow.

Evening Guild News

SID LWML Southern Illinois District Convention at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville on September 11-12. Registration forms are available at www.sidlwml.org under Convention News to print. Mail the form with payment to Marie Voges.

Mark your calendar for September 15th, the first gathering of the 2026-2027 program. "Lutheran women in mission" is our motto, and we welcome all women of St. John's. A great opportunity to gather with fellow Christian believers.

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

Worship Greeters

Sat. Aug. 1	5 p.m. Lynn Langrehr
Sun. Aug. 2	8 a.m. Christine Doerr & Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Jim & Judy Guebert
Sat. Aug. 8	5 p.m. Virginia & Mark Moeller
Sun. Aug. 9	8 a.m. Kalin & Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ron & Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. Aug. 15	5 p.m. <i>Volunteers Needed</i>
Sun Aug. 16	8 a.m. Linda Guebert & Christine Doerr 10:30 a.m. Gerald & Jill Hanebutt
Sat. Aug. 22	5 p.m. Virginia & Mark Moeller
Sun. Aug. 23	8 a.m. Cindy Steele & Sharon Henke 10:30 a.m. Vernitta Wolter & Cindy Ebers
Sat. Aug. 29	5 p.m. Kimberly Ellis & Addison Breier
Sun. Aug. 30	8 a.m. Clyde & Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Ron & Donna Burgdorf

We need a couple or two individuals to serve as greeters on the 1st and 3rd Saturday services, starting on August 15th. The only requirements, expectations and duties are to stand for about 15 minutes, smile and greet people as they enter the church.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Aug. 1	5 p.m. Abby Stellhorn
Sun. Aug. 2	8 a.m. Elle Sutton 10:30 a.m. Alexa Cheek
Sat. Aug. 8	5 p.m. Kenadee Crafton
Sun. Aug. 9	8 a.m. Aiden Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Cassidy Palm
Sat. Aug. 15	5 p.m. Finn Liefer
Sun Aug. 16	8 a.m. Grayden Schloemann 10:30 a.m. Amelia Cheek
Sat. Aug. 22	5 p.m. Natalie Kassing
Sun. Aug. 23	8 a.m. Blaine Rohlfing 10:30 a.m. Charlie Liefer
Sat. Aug. 29	5 p.m. Karys Papenberg
Sun. Aug. 30	8 a.m. Presley Liefer 10:30 a.m. Holden Wagner

*If you're **unable** to serve when scheduled, please switch with another acolyte scheduled **and** contact our office with the changes. Thank you!*

Acolyte Training

Acolyte Training will be held on Wednesday, August 26 beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Students will sign up for the service times that they prefer to attend with their family. We will go over expectations and directions. We should finish by 5p.m. A new acolyte schedule will be ready by the Sept. 2 class times. If you are unable to acolyte on the date assigned, it is your family's responsibility to find a replacement. Posting on the school/church's Facebook page usually is the best way to do this. Please notify the office of any changes that are made.



Church and School Calendar

Saturday, August 1-

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

Sunday, August 2-

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

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, August 3-

6:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher's Meeting

7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

7:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting

Tuesday, August 4- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off*

8:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Active Shooter Drill Training

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

6:30 p.m. Bible Recap Class in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 5-

8:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Mandated Trainings

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

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

4p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Back to School Night

6:30 p.m. Divine Service

Thursday, August 6-

SID Day of Spiritual Renewal @ MELHS Edwardsville

Friday, August 7-

Saturday, August 8-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

Sunday, August 9-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class

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

10:30 Rededication of teachers

Monday, August 10-

8:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, August 11- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off*

First Day of School!! 1:45 dismissal

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

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

1:00 p.m. All School Opening Chapel Service

4:15 p.m. SB @ RBC

4:30 p.m. BB @ ICS

6:30 p.m. Bible Recap Class in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 12-

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

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

4:30 p.m. Board for Parish Education meeting

6:30 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, August 13-

6:00 p.m. Men's Club BBQ

Friday, August 14-

Saturday, August 15- BB/SB "A" Trny @ RBL

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



Sunday, August 16- *Rally Day for Sunday School*

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

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

10:15 a.m.-?? Sr. Youth BBQ @ school's parking lot

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, August 17-

6:00 -8:00 p.m. Grades 8, 7, 6, 5 class meetings

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting in Library

Tuesday, August 18- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off*

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

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

6:30 p.m. Bible Recap Class in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 19-

7:00 a.m. Public School Confirmation

8:30 a.m. 3rd-8th Grade Chapel

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

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

1:35 p.m. Staff meeting

3:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Divine Service

Thursday, August 20-

Zion BB Tournament

4:15 p.m. SB vs Evansville

Friday, August 21- *Epistle articles are due!!*

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel

Saturday, August 22-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

Sunday, August 23-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

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

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

Monday, August 24-

3:15 p.m. Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, August 25- *Pastor Mark Winkelman day off*

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

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

5:00 p.m. BB @ St. James

6:30 p.m. Bible Recap Class in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 26-

7:00 a.m. Public School Confirmation

8:30 a.m. 3rd-8th Grade Chapel

9:00 a.m. to Noon Quilting in Fellowship Hall

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

1:35 p.m. Staff meeting

3:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation

4:15 p.m. Acolyte Training

6:30 p.m. Divine Service

Thursday, August 27-

4:15 p.m. BB/SB vs. St. Mary's

Friday, August 28-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel

Saturday, August 29-

BB/SB "B" Trny @ RBL

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

Sunday, August 30-

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

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

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

Monday, August 31-

4:30 p.m. BB/SB vs TSJ