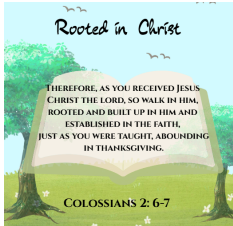
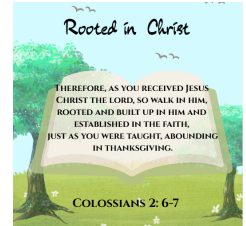


Cougar Tracks



Mission Statement: St. John's Lutheran School provides quality Christ-centered education for the congregation and community to make and equip disciples of Jesus Christ.
Matthew 28:18-20



stjohnsredbud.org

Colossians 2: 6-7

"Therefore, as you received Jesus Christ 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."

August 19, 2026

LUNCH:

Thurs. Aug. 20 - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, corn, apple crisp, and milk.

Fri. Aug. 21 - Hamburger on bun, peas, tator tots, applesauce, and milk.

Mon. Aug. 24 - Biscuits-n-gravy, granola bar, mixed berries, and milk.

Tue. Aug. 25 - Chicken nuggets, baked beans, butter noodles, tropical mixed fruit, and milk.

Wed. Aug. 26 - Cheeseburger noodles, cooked carrots, pineapple, and milk.

Thurs. Aug. 27 - Fish sticks, cheesy broccoli, peaches, bread slice on side, and milk.

Fri. Aug. 28 - Chicken soft taco, corn, mandarin oranges, churro crunch, cheese, and milk.



WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL:

Thurs. Aug. 20 - Zion Baseball Tournament Begins

Thurs. Aug. 20 - SB v. Evansville, 4:15pm

Tue. Aug. 25 - BB @ St. James, 5pm

Wed. Aug. 26 - Acolyte Training, 4:15-5:15pm

CHAPEL SERVICES NEXT WEEK:

- **Fri. Aug. 21** - Early Childhood Chapel, 8:30am @ Church, Leaders - Miss Birkner & Kindergarten
- **Wed. Aug. 26** - 3-8 Chapel, 8:30am @ Church, Leader - Mr. Becker
- **Fri. Aug. 28** - Early Childhood Chapel, 8:30am @ Church - Leader - Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain

SCHOOL CHAPEL SERVICES: Wednesday morning chapel services will be held at 8:30am with grades 3-8 attending. Services will be typically held at church, weather permitting. Early childhood services for Daycare-2nd grade will be held on Friday mornings at 8:30am. Students will be walking to church August-October and March-May, weather permitting. Otherwise, services will be held in the school's new gym. If location changes this will be communicated via Facebook and Remind for both chapel groups. Guests are welcome to attend!

AUGUST CHAPEL OFFERINGS: During the month of August, our chapel offerings will benefit Operation Barnabas. This is the LCMS' network of care to our Nation's Military members, families, and veterans. Chapel offering envelopes will be sent home for early childhood chapel each week. Please consider sending in a gift of any size. Thank You!

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Join us this Sunday, Aug. 23rd for bring a friend to Sunday School day. Last week's Rally Day attendance was 55 students. Can we surpass this on 8/23? Sunday School begins at 9:25am.

PAPER COUGAR TRACKS: Each week our school newsletter, The Cougar Tracks, is "published" on Wednesday. If you would like to receive a paper copy sign and return the form below -or- complete the form linked below. If you would prefer to read the Cougar Tracks electronically there is no need to return the form below. Electronic copies will be available via Fast Direct, Remind, our school Facebook page, and the school website. Link: <https://forms.gle/ymozkR5EsPBHBAoq9>

STUDENT APPOINTMENTS & ABSENCES: If your child will be absent from school or if they have an appointment, please remember to notify the school office and/or your child's teacher. For medical appointments, this will allow us to have your student ready to leave at the time of pick up, and efficiently check them out for the appointment.

STUDENT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: In accordance with Illinois state guidelines the following health requirements are in place for the 26-27 school year. Preschool - **If your child does NOT attend SJL daycare**, birth certificate, social security number/card, and current physical. Kindergarten – physical, dental, and eye exam, copies of CERTIFIED student birth certificate and social security card. 2nd grade – dental exam. 6th grade – physical and dental exam. Student athletes – sports physical. Physicals and eye exams are good for 365 days, and dental exams are good for 6 months. Please have all documents on file in the school office by September 15th. If you need a copy of the form to take to your child's appointment, copies are available in the school office. Our school fax number is 618-282-4087 if your doctor's office prefers to fax forms directly to us.

GIVING WALL EXPANSION: Dear Church and School Families, we are excited to invite you to join the donors' wall in the New Gym Lobby. Each tile is a six-inch stainless steel square that can be engraved with a message. The cost to add a tile to the wall is a \$500 donation. You can order by emailing office@stjohnsredbud.org. Once we have a specific number of orders, we will then start the process of collecting the message that you would like engraved on your tile.

SYCAMORE SYSTEM INFORMATION: Our previous school information system, Fast Direct, has been bought out by Sycamore Education Systems. As of 9/30/26 we will no longer have access to the Fast Direct platform. Please read the following information below carefully.

- **Please discontinue use of Fast Direct immediately. The system is no longer being monitored by staff members. Email, Remind, and phone calls are the best way to contact our staff and teachers.**
- **Parents** - you have all been invited to login to the system. If for some reason you are unable to login, reach out to the office and we will help you access the system. Teachers are posting grades on a regular basis. If you feel a grade was posted in error, please reach out to your child's teacher. There are quite a few steps involved in grade posting, and we are all still actively learning! Individual family data/contact information will be reviewed and updated as time allows. Please rest assured that we will utilize the forms completed during registration if we need to contact you to assure the correct individuals are contacted.
- **Finance** - At this time all CREDITS from Fast Direct should be showing in your account. Past due balances and charges have not been rolled over, but should be in the near future. This is a SLOW process that requires individual entries, so please be patient as we work through this. You are now able to make payments through Sycamore with a credit or debit card. Alternatively, you can bring cash or check payment directly to the school office.
- Keep in mind, after 9/30/26 we will no longer be able to access fast direct. If you are in need of your tax payer statement for payments made this spring, you must request it before this date.
- This change was brought on quickly. **Please be patient with all teachers and office staff as we are actively learning the new system.** If you need assistance and/or have questions, please email Sara (sara@stjohnsredbud.org) and I will get back to you ASAP when I have an answer.

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.

SHOE DONATION BIN: The Red Bud Lions Club is collecting LACED SHOES from August 4-September 11th. A donation bin can be found in the main lobby, and used shoes are welcome. Donations will benefit children in Africa, by supplying them with shoes. Thank you for your support of this opportunity.

CURRENT FUNDRAISERS:

- The current 5th grade class is selling fall mums for \$10 each. Available colors are yellow, purple, orange/bronze, and red. See the attached flyer to order. Orders are due to the office by Friday, August 28th.
- Our 34th annual golf tournament will be held on Sat. Sept. 19th at North County Country Club. See the attached flyer for details and/or to register your team. All proceeds benefit our school athletic fund.
- The current 6th grade class will host a GloBingo on Sat. October 17th beginning at 7pm in the Old Gym. If you would like to purchase tickets please contact a member of the class. See the attached flyer for full details.

SIGNED CHROMEBOOK POLICIES: We have updated our school Chromebook policy for grades 2-8. Letters explaining the change were handed out on back to school night. If you have not returned your letter and/or need a new copy please stop by the office. These need to be on file by 8/19/26 in the office.

VOLUNTEER CHURCH OPEN/CLOSERS: Have you been looking for a way to serve our church family? Consider becoming a part of our new team of volunteers (Mike DeRousse, Kim Ellis, Becky Biffar, Jamie Korando, Beth Dieward, and Justin Palm) who help prepare our building for our weekly worship services. This is a great opportunity for those who have a heart for service and prefer to work behind the scenes. **Typical duties include: Unlocking doors and turning on lights, Adjusting heating and cooling, Updating hymn boards, Refilling candles, and Ensuring the building is securely closed after the service.** No experience is necessary (training will be provided), and you would be scheduled on a rotating basis so the commitment is minimal. Your help will ensure a warm and welcoming environment for everyone who enters. If you are potentially interested, please add your name to our list by contacting our church office at 618-282-3873 or by sending an email to office@stjohnsredbud.org. This is for information sharing purposes only and does not commit you to serving. We will simply use this list to gauge interest and provide more details on the responsibilities and rotation schedule, so you can decide if it's the right fit for you. Thank you for your consideration.

Paper Cougar Tracks Request Form

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(Student Name & Grade)



