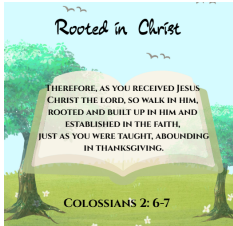
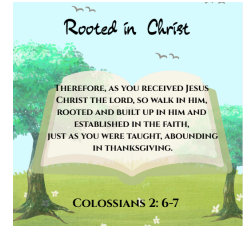


Cougar Tracks



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 26, 2026

LUNCH:

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.

Mon. Aug. 31 - BBQ pulled pork, veggies to dip, strawberries, bread slice, and milk.

Tue. Sept. 1 - Popcorn chicken, chips, cucumbers, pears, and milk.

Wed. Sept. 2 - Salisbury steak, corn, orange slices, mashed potatoes, and milk.

Thurs. Sept. 3 - Mac-n-cheese w/diced ham, peas, raisins, jello, and milk.

Fri. Sept. 4 - No School, Teacher Professional Development Day.

goodbye, august
hello, september

COLD LUNCH REMINDER: Please refrain from sending/allowing your students to bring soda in their cold lunch.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL:

Wed. Aug. 26 - Acolyte Training, 4:15 @ Church

Thurs. Aug. 27 - BB/SB v. St. Mary's, 4:15pm

Sat. Aug. 29 - BB/SB "B" Trny @ RBL

Mon. Aug. 31 - BB/SB v. TSJ, 4:30pm

Tue. Sept. 1 - BB/SB, 4:30pm

UPCOMING NO SCHOOL & EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS:

- Friday, Sept. 4th - No School, Teacher Professional Development
- Monday, Sept. 7th - No School, Labor Day
- Friday, Sept. 11th - 11:20am Early Dismissal, No Lunch or After School Care

CHAPEL SERVICES NEXT WEEK:

- **Fri. Aug. 28** - Early Childhood Chapel, 8:30am @ Church - Leader - Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain
- **Wed. Sept. 2** - **All School Chapel**, 8:30am @ Church - Leaders - Mrs. Miller & 1st Grade
- **Fri. Sept. 4** - No Chapel Service, No School.

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!

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 PICK-UP CHANGES: If you need to change your child's pick-up arrangements, please contact the office **BEFORE 2PM**. It is essential that we have time to communicate changes with your child's teacher and make sure they are in the correct location at dismissal time.

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.

FALL SPORTS PICTURE DAY: Baseball, softball, and cross country picture will be taken on Tuesday, September, 8th. Photos will be taken by Erica Mollet, and a similar ordering system will be in place just as in the past.

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.

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 you have yet to do this, please do so ASAP. If you need to be re-invited to join, reach out to the office and we can help you. Grades are being posted on a regular basis, so make sure you are checking in periodically. Teachers and staff can also send messages via the pass-a-note portal. This is an excellent way to communicate with teachers.
- **Finance** - The process of transferring credits and charges is now complete. All balances have been transferred in from Fast Direct, registration and religion material charges have been posted, and August Prek and School tuition charges have been posted. When you log in you should see money owed or a clear balance depending on payments received to date. If you need to make a payment, please send cash or check to the school office. Alternatively, you can pay with a card via Stripe. This process is directly handled through Sycamore.
- 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. Statements will be prepared on a weekly basis.
- 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.
- **What's next?** Family data will be updated over the next couple of weeks. This process will take time, but you will changes to your account if necessary as they 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.

NEW COUGAR STUDENT SIGNS: It is time to return your new Cougar signs to the office. Please drop them off on or before Sept. 1st. These signs are passed along to new students each year so it is important that we receive them back. Please be sure to hand them to one of our secretaries or volunteers so we can check you off the list. Thank You!

GRANDPARENTS/SPECIAL GUEST DAY: Will be held Friday, Sept. 25th beginning at 1:00pm. Please note the time change for this year's celebration. Guests will enjoy time with their student(s) before enjoying a special patriotic program presented by our student body in the New Gym. Further details will follow, but make sure to save the date!

STUDENT CHOIRS SINGING IN CHURCH: Save the date to enjoy our student choir's singing in church.

- Grades 3-8 will sing "Blest Are They" on Sun. Sept. 13th at the 8:00am service. Please complete the following form if your student will be present to sing:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQtdPEPowSQqJMII9rZMXntqnFedX93unZ3iOloffxgUWjtA/viewform?usp=dialog>
- Grades K-2 will sing "Go Into the World" on Sun. Sept. 20th at the 10:30am service. Please complete the following form if your student will be present to sing:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMUw6bTnmHkaWwurA3oe90paywQrtBRLrGf1sa7Yd-5DcevA/viewform?usp=dialog>

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 Diewald, 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.

