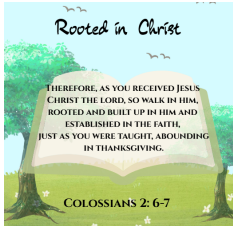
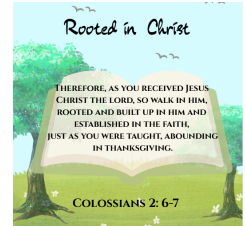


Cougar Tracks



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."

September 2, 2026

LUNCH:

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

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

Mon. Sept. 7 - No School, Labor Day

Tue. Sept. 8 - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, apple slices, broccoli, and milk.

Wed. Sept. 9 - Corndogs, salad, peaches, pretzel bites, and milk.

Thurs. Sept. 10 - Chicken quesadilla, shredded lettuce, pineapple, and milk.

Fri. Sept. 11 - 11:20am Early Dismissal, No Lunch



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

ACOLYTES:

Reminder - all changes are now handled through the sign-up genius link.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL:

Thurs. Sept. 3 - BB "B" @ PDR, 4:15pm

Fri. Sept. 4 - No School, Teacher Institute

Sat. Sept. 5 - CC @ Pickneyville

Mon. Sept. 7 - No School, Labor Day

Tue. Sept. 8 - Fall Sports Picture Day

Tue. Sept. 8 - BB/SB v. Steeleville, 4:15pm

Wed. Sept. 9 - CC @ Sparta Fairgrounds

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. Sept. 4** - No Chapel Service, No School
- **Wed. Sept. 9** - 3-8 Chapel Service, 8:30am @ Church, Leaders - Mrs. Sachtleben & 8th Grade
- **Fri. Sept. 11** - Early Childhood Chapel Service, 8:30am @ Church, Leaders - Mrs. Liefer & 2nd Grade

SEPTEMBER CHAPEL OFFERINGS: During the month of September offerings will benefit Give Me Water Lord. This organization is led by Mr. Vic Hamer and strives to provide clean drinking water to African nations that would otherwise go without. 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 NOTE: There are no Sunday School classes this weekend. We will resume after Labor Day weekend.

UPCOMING GRADE CHECK: Due to a system issue, our first grade check will be delayed. Church checks will still happen on Sept. 3rd. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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: Individual notes have been sent home regarding missing health requirements/documentation. If you received a note, please submit the required documents as soon as possible or reach out to the office to let us know about scheduled appointments. Thank you for your cooperation!

FALL SPORTS PICTURE DAY: Baseball, softball, and cross country pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September, 8th. Students should plan to have their equipment with them that day for photos. Photos will be taken by Erica Mollet, and a similar ordering system will be in place just as in the past.

FUNDRAISING LETTERS: Attached you will find two letters pertaining to updates to our 8th grade fundraisers moving forward. Please take the time to review them and take action as you feel inclined.

CIVIL WAR DAY: 8th grade has been learning about the Civil War in History Class. They have picked an actual person from the Civil War to research and present. They have created a presentation to share with the students of the school. They will dress in costume and present starting at **1:00 pm, on Thursday, Sept. 3rd**. Guests are welcome to attend and ask questions. Locations of presentations will be in the school library and school lobby.

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. Balances are current and payments should be made accordingly. 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.

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:

- 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 7th grade class will host a Yard Sale Sept. 17-19th in the Old Gym. See the attached flyer for details.
- 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.
- The class of 2030 will host a holiday craft fair on Sat. Nov. 14th at school. If you are interested in exhibiting please complete the linked form. If you have any questions please reach out to Chrystal Kiefer.
<https://forms.gle/cDWkD2UkT3jvxLSEA>

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. Paper invitations are coming home with your students this week!

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 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.

SJL Parents,

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the policies regarding fundraising for your child's 8th grade class trip and while it may seem like a lifetime away or that this does not pertain to you as your child is not of "fundraising age" yet, the Board of Parish Education would like to take a proactive approach by creating a committee of parents, board members, and the trip director (Mr. Becker) to begin discussions on how this process could be improved upon.

Fundraising fatigue is a real thing and we realize that many parents experience this by the time their child reaches 8th grade, let alone those of us with multiple children. We also understand that not everyone has the luxury to pay for the trip outright. We heard you loud and clear with the survey results that a possible combination policy would be much appreciated. We ask for your patience in this process as change takes time and we do not want to rush the process. We are asking that each class select 2 parent representatives to join this committee. We will accept volunteers first. Should a class have more than 2 volunteers, a class vote will be held to elect 2 representatives from the list of volunteers. Once the committee has been formed, they will meet monthly or more if deemed necessary to discuss and create possible new fundraising policies to present to the Board for approval. We are so incredibly grateful for our parent involvement at St John's Lutheran and look forward to working together to make positive changes.

Sincerely,
Board of Parish Education

All fundraisers from the outgoing 8th grade class will be evaluated by Mr. Becker and 1 or 2 School Board members to determine if they qualify for the fundraiser draft. This evaluation should take place by the 1 st week of May to provide time for the draft to be completed by the end of the school year.

If the outgoing 8th grade parent in charge of an available fundraiser has a child in the incoming 5th , 6th , or 7th grade class they will be given the choice to retain that fundraiser for that child's class as long as they wish to remain in charge of said fundraiser for the new class. We understand you have put in much time and dedication perfecting the event and you should be allowed to continue to do so for your younger child as long as they are of fundraising age. If you do not wish to continue with this fundraiser it will be put in the list for the draft.

You can no longer “pass” a fundraiser onto a friend or family member to take over for their child.

The available fundraisers will then be put in a list containing the fundraiser title, average past profit, complexity, and past lead person's name. This list will be shared with the incoming 5 th , 6 th , and 7 th grade classes via their Facebook pages. The classes will have time to review the list and decide amongst themselves which fundraisers might fit their class the best and those they would like to try and obtain.

A date will be set no more than a week after the list is posted to perform the “draft”. Each class will assign a point person to correspond with Mr. Becker on this. 5th grade will go first and choose 1 fundraiser from the list, then 6th grade will choose one, followed by 7th grade choosing one. Then back to 5th grade to repeat the process until all fundraisers have been spoken for.

Should there be fundraisers left unclaimed, they will remain on the list to be included in the following years draft with the exception of concession stand events which need to be covered every year.

If the current 8th grade class is either done fundraising at the beginning of the school year or has fundraisers they would like to give up for their 8th grade year then those fundraisers will be compiled at the beginning of the school year and the process will be performed at that time. Should all available fundraisers be drafted at the beginning of the school year, with none left to disperse at the end of the school year, the school board reserves the right to retain 1 or 2 of those fundraisers for the following years incoming 5th grade class so that they will not be entering 5th grade empty handed.

If #7 happens (ONLY if the current 8th grade will not be hosting the event) and the 8th grade parent in charge has a current 4th grade child, they will be allowed to hold onto that for that child's class if they wish since it is out of their control that the draft happened at the beginning of the school year instead of the end. Since 4th grade cannot yet fundraise, we will allow 5 th , 6 th , or 7 th to perform said fundraiser for ONLY the 1 year. Then the event will go back to the previous 8 th grade parent that was in charge for their next child's 5th grade year. It will be added to the list as available for this year ONLY!

We encourage parents to be creative and come up with new and exciting fundraising ideas! If you have a new idea you would like to move forward with, you will first need a majority vote from the class and approval from Mr. Becker before proceeding.

 **St. John's**
Lutheran School
Golf Tournament

September 19, 2026 9am Shotgun Start

4-Person Scramble

Entry Fee: \$320/team

Includes Golf & Cart, and Meal following the tournament
****Flighted Cash Prizes & Optional Skin Game****

All proceeds will benefit

St. John's Lutheran School Athletic Fund

North County Country Club, Red Bud, IL

Please contact Andrew Stellhorn for questions or to enter your team.
Email andrew@wfdesignz.com or text 618-334-3182.
Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran School