

The Epistle May 2015

A Resurrection Poem

Jesus appears, we have no fears.
He is no ghost, this is His boast:
"I'm risen from the dead, there's no need to dread.
I have life to give, take it and live.
Share with others My news, there's no time to lose.
I forgive you your sin, trust in Me and win
victory over death and grave.
You are the one I came to save."

Pastor Mark Nebel

For Your Devotions

A recent devotion from Lutheran Church Charities addressed the common misperception that it is the pastor's job to make a congregation grow by saying: *God has a plan for church growth and you have a part to play. You are called to invite them. You say, 'Isn't that my pastor's job?' No, your pastor is a shepherd. Shepherds don't give birth to sheep; sheep do that. When was the last time you told someone about Jesus and invited them to meet other Christians?* The following is another recent devotion from Lutheran Church Charities following the same theme:

Do You Want Your Church To Grow?

This is what the LORD says: "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, 'Don't destroy it, there is yet some good in it,' so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all. Isaiah 65:8

The fourth, and perhaps the most frustrating challenge we face when it comes to church growth, is to involve them. Why is that? A message on a bulletin board outside a church gives us a clue. The top line says, 'We care about you,' and the line underneath reads: 'Sundays. 10 am only.' A cartoon by Erik Johnson puts it another way. At the top in big bold letters is a sign that reads: 'The challenge of starting a men's ministry.' Standing directly under the sign is a group of bored-looking guys. To the right of the group is the pastor, who quips: 'So far, the only thing we have in common is an aversion to singing, socializing and sharing.'

People can feel lost and lonely in a crowd, even if it's in church. Sitting in a pew looking at the back of somebody's head for an hour and a half doesn't meet anyone's emotional, relational, or spiritual needs. As a member of Christ's body, the church, it's your job to take the first step and initiate contact with those around you. Jesus went out of His way to love the fallen, the fraudulent and the faithless—people others wouldn't have anything to do with. When someone comes into your church and finds Christ, your job has only begun. They are called to serve and you are called to show them how, when and where. 'The new wine is found in the cluster...' Wine speaks of joy. But you can't get it out of a single grape; you've got to have a 'cluster'. Are you getting the idea?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me reach out to others and serve them and care for them and listen to them. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Welcome to Our Family of Faith!

April 18 Baptism of Brewer Albert Krick

Calling All Graduates!

During May we celebrate the graduation of all St. John's members from any type of educational institution during this past school year. We would like to recognize them by name in our May 24-25 bulletin, our grade school graduation service and our next Epistle. We know the graduates from our grade school and Red Bud High School, but we need you to call the office with the names, schools and degrees awarded of our other St. John's members who are graduating. Thank you!

From the Pastors' Desks

There is plenty going on in the month of May. We look at the secular calendar and find Mother's Day, Memorial Day and many graduations to celebrate. Our worship services this month will note these events.

But there are also important dates in our church year calendar during May. Thursday, May 14 is Ascension Day. We observe the ascension of the risen Jesus into heaven with services of Holy Communion that day at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us with Him. We wait in hope and expectation for His return!



Jesus has not left us without His presence and His power. He has given us His Holy Spirit. He fulfilled that promise to His first followers on Pentecost. Ten days after Jesus' ascension the Comforter came upon them with the sound of the rushing wind, with the tongues of fire over their heads and in their ability to speak in other languages. Spilling out into the streets of Jerusalem, they spoke of Jesus to all those who had travelled to Jerusalem for the holy day in the languages they knew from back home. We will celebrate this occasion the weekend of May 23-24 with special orders of Holy Communion.

The following weekend, May 30-31, we will highlight the Scriptural teaching of the Holy Trinity, one God in the three Persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Clearly revealed in the Bible, but yet a mystery beyond human invention, we proclaim this teaching of the faith and rejoice in the saving work our God does for us as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Again all our services that weekend will be ones of Holy Communion.

I look forward to joining you in our May celebrations.

*Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Mark A. Nebel*

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Spring has finally arrived. The sports activities of the winter come to an end. It's time to prepare for the T-Ball, Baseball, walks around the block, getting the bike out and taking a stroll around town. It is exciting to see everyone enjoying the warmth of the season. We

need to nurture the physical part of our lives to remain healthy.

There is another part of our lives that needs our attention as well. We celebrated our Savior's resurrection as we took advantage of the worship opportunities offered in our local congregations. During the spring and summer months it is difficult to find time to worship. We are tempted to take a break from nurturing the Spiritual part of our lives.

Jesus invites us remain actively connected to Him. He tells us in the Gospel of John: **I am the vine; you are the branches.** Branches cannot grow without the Vine. We are the branches, Jesus is the Vine.

We are united in Christ through the gift of faith. Our faith is nurtured by our Lord as worship Him. He tells us: **Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.**

As we enjoy the activities of the spring and summer months, let us take time to enjoy the spiritual activities God has planned for us as we enjoy His presence in our lives.

Rev. Russell E. Koen

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A Few Minutes for Meditation;

A Few Moments for Memorization

Buried in the middle of the Old Testament is a great passage describing King David's preparations for the building of the temple in Jerusalem by his son Solomon. It is a wonderful description of what stewardship truly is, living a life of joyful faith and generous giving. We continue last month's study with more passages from 1 Chronicles 29:

Verse 15: We are aliens and strangers in Your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

David describes his people as "aliens and strangers" in God's sight. Apart from Christ, we are foreigners to God, a people so covered in sin that He does not recognize us. Without Christ we are "without hope."

What is a "shadow"? _____

Why does David use this image to describe "our days on earth"? _____

Verse 16; O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building You a temple for Your Holy Name, it comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to You.

What word does David use to describe the offering they have gathered for building the temple? _____

From where has that "abundance" come? _____

To whom does it still belong? _____

God's people have gathered, not a little, but a lot. This is not for their glory, comfort or enjoyment, but for the purpose of praising His Holy Name.

Read the second half of verse 16 over again until you have it memorized.

From the Principal's Pen

Greetings to all! Today is the first day back for me from our Washington DC trip and an accreditation visit at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville. The Washington DC trip went well. We had 48 students, parents and guests make the trip. New experiences were the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg, a Cardinals/Nationals baseball game in DC, and a short portrayal in Ford's Theater about a man present during the Lincoln Assassination which took place 150 years ago. All in all we had good weather and the group was wonderful as we spent the week together! One of my first questions this morning was "when are we going next year?"! I will meet with the 7th grade class soon to confirm dates for the 2016 trip.

I mentioned accreditation visits. I have spent two days at Zion, Staunton, and two days at Good Shepherd, Collinsville, serving on National Lutheran School Accreditation visits. Mrs. Letcher, Mr. Becker and Mrs. Schmitz each spent two school days at Trinity, Red Bud (Letcher), Zion, Belleville (Becker) and Immanuel, Okawville, (Schmitz) serving on accreditation teams. All this experience will help us as we prepare to go through the new accreditation process next year. That will be our Evidence-Based visit. As in the past, we will have a lot of work to do to document all that we do here on a regular basis. Please lend a helping hand when asked to serve on one of the 7 committees.

Our students have done well in some academic competitions. Caleb Guebert placed 2nd in the Spelling Bee in 5th grade at St. Mark's Lutheran School. Annelise Quinn, Madilyn Hooch, Sophia Liefer, Caleb Guebert and Katie Schneider all received Blue Ribbon, 1st place ratings at the recent Art Contest.

The track season has gone well so far. A complete list of team accomplishments will be included in the June/July Epistle. At this point we have a possibility of 9 students being eligible for the Lutheran State Track meet in River Forest on May 15-17.

The month of May will be very busy. Many of our classes will have a field trip. The 5th grade is going to the Conservation Day on May 5. Grade 7 will spend a visitation day at COSLHS on May 7. Grades PreK-4 will attend the FFA day at RBHS on May 8. Grades 7 and 8 will travel to Concordia Seminary on May 11. Kindergarten and 1st grade will go to the zoo on May 22. Grade 4 will do a Randolph County tour on May 26. Several other classes are still making plans for a day trip in the area.

Please mark your calendars for these events: the Athletic Awards night will be on May 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The last day of school will be May 27 with Chapel and awards followed by a short game time for the students. Dismissal will be at 11:00 a.m. with no lunch served. Graduation will take place on May 28 at

7:30 p.m. in the church. A dance will follow for the students in the gym.

The year always seems to fly by quickly. We look forward to the move into the new classrooms this summer. It will be busy, please lend a helping hand when called upon to help. It will take an army to do everything that needs to be completed for the start of the 2015-2016 school year! What a blessing to be able to complete the wonderful project begun!

In His love, Deitt Schneider

Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance for April

Nursery- Brayden McCarthy and Caleb Klausing

Pre-Kindergarten- Norah Wagner

Kindergarten- Lucas McCarthy and Milla Neff

1st Grade- Lydia Schoenbeck, Evan Kiefer, Emma Kiefer

2nd Grade- Emme Deterding, Bruce Quinn, Sam Roscow,
and Daniel Stapleton

3rd Grade- Konnor Cartee and Hannah Schoenbeck

4th Grade- Ashton Liefer

6th Grade- Claire Grohmann, Annelise Quinn, Dylan
Roscow and Grace Schoenbeck

7th Grade- Dominick Liefer

Singing in Worship on Mother's Day

The Primary children (nursery-1st grade) will sing Sunday, May 10th, in the 8 a.m. service. The children received a CD of "The Lord's Prayer" last month for practice. The children will sit with their parents until they are invited forward to sing. Then, after the Children's Message, they will return to their seats.

Summer Sunday School Material

Again this summer we will offer take home material for children to do on their own and return for recognition on Rally Day. Parents will be given a choice of material to select.

"I Spy" will provide mysterious cases to be solved by reading the Bible stories. Colorful leaflets will provide the younger children activities to do based on the Bible readings.

"My Devotions" will provide older students daily devotions and journal projects that will be supplemented by weekly handouts based on one of that week's devotions.

Senior Youth Activities

The next senior youth meeting is May 3, 7 p.m., at school. There is also an information meeting about the 2016 National Youth Gathering on Monday, May 11, 7 p.m., at school. We encourage parents and youth (current grade 7 - seniors in high school) to attend the meeting. We are inviting any former youth group members or adults that have attended a previous gathering to come also and share their experiences with the group.

160th Anniversary News

We will welcome Rev. Todd Liefer of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville, Missouri as our anniversary preacher on May 9-10. He is a former member of St. John's and the son of Ron and Patti Liefer.

Have you noticed the history inserts in the bulletin? We are covering the 160 years of our congregation's history in ten-year increments. This will continue through the first weekend in August. Then we will publish a simple booklet containing the entire history for you to have.

Confirmation Recognitions will begin on Pentecost weekend with all the class confirmed in a year ending in 0. For ten weeks we will include the names of these confirmands and acknowledge them in worship services on those weekends.

The following is a letter from a former pastor of St. John's who responded to our invitation to take part in our celebration this summer:

Sun City, AZ
April 18, 2015

To the Members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Red Bud:

Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto you through God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus who truly is the Christ, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us in faith.

What a joy it is for you to be celebrating the 160th Anniversary of the founding of St. John's Lutheran Church. God has truly blessed you as you faithfully proclaim the saving Gospel of God's grace in Christ. The Easter proclamation, "He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!" rings joyfully throughout the year, reminding us of God's grace in sending His Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on our behalf and to rise from the dead to assure us that because He lives, we too shall live. Over the past 160 years, thousands of folks in and around Red Bud have heard this message proclaimed faithfully from your pulpit and taught in your school, and thousands before us are now realizing the fulfillment of God's promises in the presence of God Himself in heaven. Lucille and I join in praying that God will continue to bless the pastors and people of St. John's, that thousands more in the years to come will hear that wondrous message of God's grace in Christ.

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the 160th Anniversary celebration of St. John's Lutheran Church.

While we will be unable to attend in person, our thoughts and prayers will be with you for God's continued blessings in the years to come.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!
Pastor Robert W. Holstein, emeritus

"Thank you for the cards, letters, emails, and CD I received following my recent fall and injured knee. Your thoughts and prayers for me are truly appreciated. I am also thankful that the surgeon informed me that no surgery is necessary, only a 6-8 week period of physical therapy. After being gone from Red Bud over 34 years, the people of St. John's are still near and dear to me in my heart. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and prayers." – Lucille Holstein, Sun City, AZ

Evening Guild News

The **May 19th** meeting is Guild's last meeting before the summer break. It is Dutch Treat Night starting at **6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered by Mission Caterers from Columbia. The cost will be \$10.50 per person, payable that evening. All profit from the cost of the meal will go to mission work in Guatemala. For reservations, please call Janet Braun, 282-3854 by May 14.

There will be a brief business meeting and installation of officers for the 2015-16 term. Mark your calendars NOW and plan for a wonderful evening of fellowship with one another.

Over the summer months, watch the bulletin for blanket tie dates. Remember to save cards for crosses for Prison Ministry. If you need a pattern, contact Lisa Kloepper. You can simply save the fronts of cards. Make sure there is no printing on the back and no glitter anywhere. Please bring them to the Quilting Room in the Fellowship Hall. Someone will cut crosses for you. Also, if you find material suitable for blanket use, such as polyester knits or cottons, or flat bed sheets that you no longer want, please bring materials to the Quilting Room. Usually there is someone there on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week. Thanks in advance for helping with mission projects.

IT WILL BE TOO HOT TO BE OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER! QUILT ON TUESDAY EVENINGS OR WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY DAYS IN AN AIR CONDITIONED ROOM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. GOOD TIMES CAN BE FOUND THERE.

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Glorify His Name!

Assistants from the Altar Guild

Flower Servers: Janet Braun and Norma Preston
Communion Cloths: Olivia Schmitz

Red Geraniums

The Altar Guild will decorate the church with red geraniums on Pentecost. The cost is \$6.00 each. If you would like to purchase a geranium, please fill out the form and return it to the church office with your money by FRIDAY, MAY 8. The geraniums may be picked up after the late service on May 24.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. May 2 5 p.m. Michael Ratcliff
Sun. May 3 8 a.m. Amber Mollett
10:30 a.m. Megan Schrader

Sat. May 9 5 p.m. Jarrett Fleming
Sun. May 10 8 a.m. Dominick Liefer
10:30 a.m. Reese Foster

Thu. May 14 8:30 a.m. Makayla Whelan
7:00 p.m. Lindsey Fruth

Sat. May 16 5 p.m. Jordyn Mulherin
Sun. May 17 8 a.m. Kinley Bowles
10:30 a.m. Madylin Hooch

Sat. May 23 5 p.m. Brandon Voss
Sun. May 24 8 a.m. Brittney Pensoneau
10:30 a.m. Jessie Deterding

Sat. May 30 5 p.m. Alexcis Crafton
8 a.m. Brianna Hudson
10:30 a.m. Christian Stechmesser

*If you are not able to serve when scheduled,
please switch with another acolyte and contact the
church office with the change.*

Worship Greeter Schedule

We need more volunteers to welcome people to our worship services. This is an important and easy way to serve our Lord and benefit His people with a friendly smile, a kind hello and a welcoming handshake as they enter His house for worship. We have openings especially for the 10:30 a.m. service and special festivals. Please contact the office if you are willing to help in this way!

Sat. May 2 5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. May 3 8:00 a.m. Lois Mesnarich; Roger
Hanebutt; Ken and Joan Ruwald
10:30 a.m. Jackie Aubuchon;
Ron and Donna Burgdorf

Sat. May 9 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. May 10 8 a.m. Milton and Mary Ann Weber;
Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzels;
Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

Sat. May 16 5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. May 17 8 a.m. Wil and Martha Krick;
Cindy Steele & Olivia Schmitz
10:30 a.m. Carl and Flo Zschiegner;
Gerald and Nancy Holmstrom

Sat. May 23 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller

Sun. May 24 8 a.m. John and Norma Preston;
Loren and Nancy Harms
10:30 a.m. Larry and Cindy Ebers
Vernon and Evelyn Muench

Sat. May 30 5 p.m. Miriam Poston
Sun. May 31 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer;
Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
10:30 a.m. Bob and Arlene Pratt;
Omer and Neva Liefer



Where there is a will, there is a way to witness

Do you have a will? If not, what will be done with those things God has blessed you with that remain here after He calls you to our heavenly home? In a will we have the opportunity to confess our faith in the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. This witness will be shared with those who read/hear your will. Also, you have to chance to support Christian ministries that were so important to your faith life while in this life. Look for more information to come on assistance in your will-making process.

The Board of Elders, the Estate Fund Committee and their spouses will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2nd, in the Fellowship Hall. This will be followed by a presentation from members of the LCMS Foundation on a program called "Transfer the Blessings." We are looking into the possibility of partnering with LCMS Foundation on establishing this ministry at St. John's.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to St. John's member Nathan DeRousse, a senior at Red Bud High School, who was chosen as Student of the Month for March. Two of his nominating teachers were St. John's members Christa Brundage and Sarah Heller.

Congratulations to St. John's member Elizabeth Moll, a senior at Red Bud High School, who was chosen as a member of the court for the April 18th prom.

May Church and School Calendar

Friday, May 1-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service
4-7 p.m. PTL Rummage Sale in the school gym

Saturday, May 2-

7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
8- 11 a.m. PTL Rummage Sale in the school gym
5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, May 3-

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult & Youth Bible classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service
11 a.m. 7th Grade BBQ in the school parking lot
6:30 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the FH
7 p.m. Senior Youth meeting in the school cafeteria

Monday, May 4-

3-6 p.m. Active Shooter Drill at school
7 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Choir practice

Tuesday, May 5-

Grade 5 field trip for Conservation Day
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in the FH

Wednesday, May 6-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service led by
9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the FH
3:30 p.m. 8th grade Public School Confirmation
6 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 7-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
Grade 7 Visitation Day at COSLHS
6:30 p.m. Men's Club meets at Lions Park

Friday, May 8-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service
Grades Pre-K to 4 field trip for FFA Day at RBHS

Saturday, May 9- District Track Meet in Belleville

5 p.m. Divine Service

Sunday, May 10- Happy Mother's Day

8 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth & Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, May 11-

7th & 8th Grades Field Trip to Concordia Seminary
3:10 p.m. Faculty meeting
7 p.m. National Youth Gathering meeting at school

Tuesday, May 12-

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Care Center

Wednesday, May 13-

9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the FH
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. 8th grade Public School Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Athletic Awards Banquet in the gym
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Exodus)

Thursday, May 14-

8:30 a.m. Ascension Day Holy Communion Service
7 p.m. Ascension Day Holy Communion Service

Friday, May 15- Pastor Nebel on vacation thru the 18th

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service

Saturday, May 16- Lutheran State Track Meet

5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, May 17-

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth & Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service
6:30 p.m. Adult Instruction Class

Monday, May 18-

3:10 p.m. Faculty meeting
7 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 19-

6 p.m. Evening Guild Dutch Treat night in FH

Wednesday, May 20-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel Service led by Pastor Koen
9:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the FH
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 21-

6:30 a.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

Friday, May 22-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel Service
Kindergartens and Grade 1 field trip to zoo

Saturday, May 23-

7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, May 24- Pentecost Sunday

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth & Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, May 25- Memorial Day, Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26-

Grade 4 Randolph County Bus Tour
1:30 p.m. Garden Place Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, May 27-

8:30 a.m. Closing School Chapel Service
11 a.m. School Dismissal
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 28-

6:30 a.m. Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. School Graduation at Church

Saturday, May 30-

5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, May 31- Trinity Sunday

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth & Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m. Adult Instruction Class

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL