

# *The Epistle*

*July 2016*

**St. John's Lutheran  
Red Bud, Illinois**

**Church: 508 Bloom Street  
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**School: 808 South Main Street  
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**Worship: Saturdays at 5 p.m.**

**Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.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 Nebel, Senior Pastor*

*Rev. Russell Koen, Pastor*

*Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal*

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

## ***For Your Devotions***

### ***From Lutheran Church Charities***

#### **Whose Company Do You Prefer?**

*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. Acts 4:23*

We all have our 'own company'. It's where we feel most at home, where we naturally gravitate to when we have the choice. The great Bible teacher A. W. Tozer once said, *'The important thing about a man is not where he goes when he is compelled to go, but where he goes when he is free to go where he will.'* The apostles went to jail under compulsion, but when they were given their liberty they chose to return to '...their own company...' of praying believers. How revealing! The clear choices of life—not the compulsions—reveal our true character. Let's consider a real-life illustration. You're absent from church on Sunday. Where are you? If you're having surgery, your absence reveals that you're ill and compelled to miss church. However, if you're on the golf course, that tells us a different story. Assuming that

you're not on a well-deserved vacation, we know that you chose to skip church in favor of your 'own company'—your fellow golfers. Has your choice to play instead of to pray become a habit? If so, you might be on the threshold of letting slip *'...meeting together with other believers, which some people have got into the habit of doing...'* (Hebrews 10:25). Habits are not the product of one decision—they're the result of repeated choices that eventually become automatic responses. How can you know your true spiritual condition? By the company you keep and the choices you make. When you're free to go, where do you choose to go? Whose company do you prefer?

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, forgive me when I have made selfish choices on where I go. Help me stay in the company of Your people. In Jesus' Name, Amen*

#### **From the Pastors' Desks**

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:1, 13)*

We heard these words as our Epistle reading in worship the last weekend in June. They are appropriate as we celebrate our nation's Independence Day in July.

As American citizens we misunderstand freedom if we think it means we can do whatever we want to do. Our freedom ends where it takes away another person's freedom. With freedom comes responsibility. With our rights comes our respect for the rights of others. The rule of law recognizes our rights but also shows us the limits of our freedom in order to protect the rights of those around us.

As Christian believers we also misunderstand freedom if we think it means we can do whatever our sinful nature wants to do. That would place us back under a yoke of slavery to sin. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has lived, died and risen from the dead to take away the "have to" of our lives. We do not have to do, don't do, give, live, worship, sacrifice in order to placate our Creator, earn His acceptance and win an eternal reward. Jesus has accomplished all that for us!

By His work through God's Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith in the saving merits of Jesus for us. Now, that same Spirit works in us what we "get to" do in our lives. This changes everything! Our worship of our Triune God is not what we have to do, but what we freely get to do for His praise. Our works

for the good of others are not what we have to do, but what we freely get to do for their benefit. Our offerings for the support of Christ's ministry are not what we have to do, but what we freely get to do for the spread of His kingdom on earth.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

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I thought I would share some of my personal thoughts with you in this article.

I have been meeting with the doctors at Washington University the past weeks and confirmed with them that the knee implants that were used in the previous two knee replacements have been rejected by my body. The current one is working loose and will need to be replaced. They are replacing it with a "Stryker" implant which is not as likely to be rejected by my body. Surgery is scheduled during my vacation time in late July. I attended a "joint replacement" workshop on June 20<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the surgery.

Lauri is still fighting the infection the radiation caused back in May. She is healing as planned. She will complete her last chemotherapy treatment on July 26<sup>th</sup>. From that point forward, the doctors will continue to monitor her health and determine how to proceed with her health care.

We greatly appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement. **James 1:2-3 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."**

*Your brother in Christ, Pastor Russell Koen*

### **At Rest in God's Peace**

June 7 Death of Nina Liefer

June 7 Death of Eugene Guebert

June 22 Death of Arlou Hartmann

### **Capital Campaign News**

We thank all those who have made gifts to the Capital Campaign. We have received \$3,050,000 in funding from this, memorials and other gifts for our church remodeling and school expansion. Please continue to fulfill the pledge that you made! We still need the offerings that were pledged. If you can add to the pledge you made or if you have joined our family of faith after the Capital Campaign began, this is the time we could use your support to cover our final costs. Blue envelopes are available in the entryway for your gift.

### **Sunday Bible Class In The Fellowship Hall**

"The Gospel of John" is our topic for our Bible Class For All Ages in the Fellowship Hall this summer. This unique view of Jesus' earthly ministry inspired by the Holy Spirit through the writing of "the disciple whom Jesus loved" is built around seven "signs," or miracles that Jesus performed. We also hear Jesus in conversation with many who benefited from His miracles as well as those who opposed His ministry.

Pastor Nebel and Pastor Koen will alternate in leading this class which meets from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

*Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:21b-22*

### **From the Principal's Pen**

I hope you are enjoying the summer! June has really flown by! I always feel that by the time we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, summer is half over! So, enjoy your time in July with family and friends.

The building is much quieter with all the older students gone. The daycare students make some visits to the office as they take "field trips" throughout the building. With the unusually hot weather we had they made many inside trips!

Thank you letters are coming in from all of our chapel offerings throughout the year. What a blessing to have been able to send \$3,750.94 to many different missions. Each organization is thankful for your generosity.

Did you see our float in the Fireman's Parade? It was a warm day but we had some cloud cover during most of the parade route. Thanks for supporting us and saying hello along the route, it was good to see so many friendly faces!

Bruce and I are looking forward to June 30 as our second grandchild will arrive that day! Life is precious and we give thanks to God for this precious gift. We will be excited to share the news, watch the bulletin on July 2/3!

Work is continuing on the playground and just started on the school parking lot south of the new gym. New bleachers for the north side of the gym will be installed mid-July. These projects are being accomplished by using the funds from the dinner auction this past year. Many thanks to all who organized, donated or purchased items. Everyone working together makes many things possible. Many thanks to the Expansion committee who continues to meet to see the

project to completion, your time and talents are truly appreciated.

Registration night is set for July 13 for the 2016-2017 school year from 4-7 pm in the school lobby. Any family not able to attend that night may come into the office after that date. However, please register before July 31 to avoid late fees.

Our theme for next year is "In Christ We Can" taken from Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." As in the past few years, we will have t-shirts with our theme on them for the students and staff. Any parent may order them at registration night. This year the shirts will be red. We plan to have them ready for our August 28 Cardinals baseball game in which our students will sing.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School will host the Day of Spiritual Renewal on August 4. Approximately 225 people from around the Southern Illinois District will share the day with us. The Evening Guild, Men's Club and Miriam Poston are helping us prepare for the day with food and drinks. Many thanks for being a gracious servant in preparing for this event.

Looking ahead, the new school year will begin on August 16. Before we know it, we will be back in the school routine. What a blessing! At this time I think enrollment will be up. Daycare is once again going to expand and use the back rooms of the old gym. Preschool enrollment is up as well as K-8. Watch for the next Epistle, I should be able to have more accurate numbers.

Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

*In Christ, Deitt Schneider*

### **School Registration Night**

Registration night for our new school year is Wednesday, July 13, from 4-8 p.m. in the new gym lobby. Past due fees will need to be paid then. If you cannot make it that evening, please call the office to set up an appointment to come in and register. Walk-ins will not be able to register! Please complete your child's registration by July 31. A \$25 late fee will be assessed for registrations after that date. Thank you!

### **All-Year Awards**

Kindergarten- Perfect School- Brian Liefer. Perfect Church - Brian Liefer. Perfect Sunday School - Brian Liefer.

1<sup>st</sup> grade-Mrs. Miller- Perfect School- Kendall Crafton

1<sup>st</sup> grade- Mrs. Valleroy- Perfect School- Ty Voss. Perfect Church- Lacey Liefer. Perfect Sunday School- Lacey Liefer.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Perfect Church- Addie Meyer

3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Mrs. Koen- Perfect School- Emme Deterding & Cadin Voss. Perfect Church- Christine Liefer. Perfect Sunday School- Emme Deterding, Christine Liefer

3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Mrs. Nebel- Perfect School- Samuel Roscow & Olivia Geraldts

4<sup>th</sup> grade- Perfect Church- Josie Meyer. Perfect Sunday School- Josie Meyer. Honors- Byron Schlueter, Juli Stockton, Ben Whelan. High Honors- Melayna Crafton, Claire Diewald, Cash Langrehr, Dustin Salger, Olivia Schluter, Trace Wagner. Highest- Addison Dilley & Ryker Papenberg

5<sup>th</sup> grade- Perfect School- Ashton Liefer. Perfect Church- Ashton Liefer, Perfect Sunday School- Ashton Liefer. High Honors: Mitchell Fleming, Aubrey Piel, Madi Proctor, Logan Salger, Noah Tepe

6<sup>th</sup> grade- Perfect School- Mason Kinney, Perfect Church- David Koester & Camden Langrehr, Perfect Sunday School- David Koester. Honors- Lindsey Fruth, High Honors- Molly Ellner, Nick Fehr, David Koester, Michael Watters, Camden Langrehr. Highest Honors- Megan Henry, Ashley Ottoson, Katie Schneider

7<sup>th</sup> grade- Perfect School- Perfect Church- Claire Grohmann, Annelise Quinn, Dylan Roscow. Perfect Sunday School- Claire Grohmann, Dylan Roscow. Honors- Kaleb Barriger, Sara Hewitt, Jenna Salger, William Whelan. High Honors- Ethan Fritsche, Claire Grohmann, Adam Kiefer, Jordyn Mulherin. Highest Honors- Benjamin DeRousse, Avery Piel, Dylan Roscow, Merideth Whelan

8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Perfect School- Logan Cowell & Dominick Liefer, Perfect Church- Dominick Liefer, Perfect Sunday School- Dominick Liefer, Honors- Hailey Guebert. High Honors- Jayden Birkner, Alyssa Cowell, Joe Fehr, Matthew Koester, Sophia Liefer, Megan Schrader, Lydia Wright. Highest Honors- Maddie Valerius

### **Sonshine Visitation**

With additions to the list of St. John's members that we visit, we need more visitors to make those visits. If you know how much your elderly parent or grandparent appreciates having visitors, please consider being one of those visitors here for someone else's family member. Contact Kathy Liefer if you can help.

*"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life" Proverbs 16:29*

**Evening Guild July News**

**Quilting** – Our summer schedule for quilting is Tuesdays from 1-3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

**Baldwin Sight Center** could use extra help during the summer months as people go on vacation. Call Mary Ann Wegener (282-2839) or show up at church parking lot 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Our Evening Guild Guest Night will be September 20 at 6:30 p.m.

*SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS! GLORIFY HIS NAME!*

*“Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”*

*Proverbs 31:30-31*

**July Assistants from the Altar Guild**

Flower Servers: Irma Birkner and Sharon Koester

Chancel Paraments: Irma Birkner

Communion Cloths: JoAnn Yarbrough

**Senior Youth Activities**

There will not be a monthly meeting in July.

July 10 - fundraiser BBQ at school. Serving brats, pork steaks, homemade potato salad, pasta salad, cole slaw, baked beans.

July 14 (11:59 p.m.) - July 21 (3 a.m.) - NYG in NOLA!

July 30 - NYG presentation/dinner - We are inviting all to come out for dinner and listen to our presentation about the NYG. Dinner is at 6 p.m. which should work great for all attending the Saturday service at church.

Aug 6 - Tour at Life Network in Waterloo and prayer vigil at Hope Clinic in Granite City

Aug 7 - monthly meeting at school at 7 p.m.

The senior youth group thanks everyone who has supported us in so many ways (financially, through prayers, volunteering time and talents, "hiring" us for service work, the list goes on...). Without your support and the support of the youth group parents, we could not do any of the things we do. We are very blessed. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we travel to New Orleans and back this month.

*"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*

***May God Bless America!  
And May America Praise the Lord!***

**The Financial Picture Of Our Family Of Faith**

At the end of May we are running \$175,874 behind on expenses compared to income for 2016. Our current deficit (building and operating expenses) is \$1,712,844.05. Please consider how God blesses you so that you can be a blessing to others through your support of our congregation's ministry.

**Christian Day At The Ballpark**

At Busch Stadium on Sunday, August 7, 1:15 p.m. the St. Louis Cardinals will play the Atlanta Braves. The St. Louis Heartland Region Thrivent Member Network is sponsoring this game as "Christian Day at the Ballpark." Tickets are in the Pavilion and Terrace levels and can be purchased online at cardinals.com/thrivent. This will include an exclusive pre-game event in the Riverview Corner at the stadium with a free snack and soda and a chance to meet some Cardinal alumni. The post-game Christian Day program will include David Eckstein, Manager Mike Matheny and current Cardinal players.

**Script Cards**

Do your gift shopping in our school office. St. John's gets a percentage of what you spend. We have Tequilas, IGA and N & B Fuel also as local businesses!

**Acolyte Schedule**

Sat. July 2	5 p.m. Molly Ellner
Sun. July 3	8 a.m. Annelise Quinn 10:30 a.m. Addison Liefer
Sat. July 9	5 p.m. Parker vanDorn
Sun. July 10	8 a.m. Kinley Bowles 10:30 a.m. Tobias LaChance
Sat. July 16	5 p.m. Caleb Guebert
Sun. July 17	8 a.m. Madison Pensoneau 10:30 a.m. Jayden Birkner
Sat. July 23	5 p.m. Dylan Falkenhain
Sun. July 24	8 a.m. Reese Foster 10:30 a.m. Sophia Liefer
Sat. July 30	5 p.m. Kailyn Moeller
Sun. July 31	8 a.m. Alexcis Crafton 10:30 a.m. Lydia Wright

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

### **Worship Greeter Schedule**

*I was glad when they said to me,*

*“Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Psalm 122:1*

Sat. July 2	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. July 3	8:00 a.m. John and Norma Preston; Loren Harms 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel; Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. July 9	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sat. July 10	8 a.m. Ken and Joan Voges; Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Carl and Flo Zschiegner; Gerald and Nancy Holmstrom
Sat. July 16	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. July 17	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer; Gerald and Jill Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Larry and Cindy Ebers; Vernon and Evelyn Muench
Sat. July 23	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. July 24	8 a.m. Ken and Joan Ruwald; Roger Hanebutt and Lois Mesnarich 10:30 a.m. Bob and Arlene Pratt; Omer and Neva Liefer
Sat. July 30	5 p.m. Miriam Poston
Sun. July 31	8 a.m. Milton and Mary Ann Weber; Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Jackie Aubuchon; Ron and Donna Burgdorf

### ***July Church and School Calendar***

Friday, July 1-

*Pastor Nebel is on vacation through July 4th*

Saturday, July 2-

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

SUNDAY, July 3-

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

9:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (John)

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, June 4-

*Independence Day! Office is closed*

Tuesday, July 5-

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, July 6-

10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

Friday, July 8-

*Pastor Nebel at synodical convention through July 14*

Saturday, July 9-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 10-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (John)

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

11:00 a.m. to ?? Senior Youth BBQ at school

Wednesday, July 13-

10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

4-8 p.m. School Registration in the new gym lobby

6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

8:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in library

Thursday, July 14-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center (meet in church lot)

11:59 p.m. Senior Youth leave for NYG in New Orleans

Saturday, July 16-

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

SUNDAY, July 17-

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

9:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (John)

10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, July 18-

*Pastor Koen is on vacation through August the 7th*

6:30 p.m. Building Committee meeting in the library

7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the school library

Tuesday, July 19-

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

Wednesday, July 20-

10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

7:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 21-

3 a.m. Senior Youth return from NYG in New Orleans

Saturday, July 23-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, July 24-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (John)

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

Tuesday, July 26-

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place

Wednesday, July 27-

10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the school library

7:00 p.m. Voters' Assembly meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 28-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center (meet in church lot)

Saturday, July 30-

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

6:00 p.m. Youth Gathering Stockholder Dinner in old gym

Sunday, July 31-

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

9:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (John)

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