

The Epistle

August 2018

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

**Church: 508 Bloom Street
618/282-2394**

**School: 808 South Main Street
618/282-3873**

618-282-4087 (fax)

office@stjohnsredbud.org

www.stjohnsredbud.org

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 A. Nebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Russell E. Koen, Pastor

Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music

Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal

From Lutheran Church Charities

Passing the Fear Test

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

How much of a factor is fear in your life? Go ahead, take the fear test. Circle the number that best corresponds to how you feel. 1) I don't remember the last time I was really afraid. 2) I am afraid rarely, and only when I or someone close to me is in physical danger. 3) I am a little more fearful than I'd like to be. 4) Fear is a significant factor in my everyday life. I avoid anything risky or dangerous. 5) I'm afraid of many things on a daily basis, and it changes the way I live my life. If you circled number one you're an unusual individual who doesn't experience normal fear. You may have to temper your actions with greater discernment and wisdom. If you circled number two, you have a healthy attitude towards fear and you've got a handle on it. You should try to encourage others who have a more difficult time with fear than you do. If you circled

number three or four, you're in an excellent position to improve your life by changing your attitude.

Begin by identifying the source of your fears, and determining to turn your fear into faith in God (see *Romans 10:17*). For each area of fear, figure out a positive opposite, and create a plan of action to cultivate that quality. Then focus on what you can control today. If you circled number five, chances are fear is getting the better of you and you'll have a difficult time overcoming it on your own. So, pray and reprogram your mind with God's Word (see *1st Timothy 1:7*). And don't be afraid to seek help from a trusted friend or counselor. Remember – to God FEAR is a liar!

Prayer- *Heavenly Father, help me overcome and discard my fears and help others to do the same. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Your Pastors' Ponderings

There is a couple whom we do not know, but they live in our Southern Illinois District. They have chosen to bless St. John's with their Thrivent Choice Dollars. Their own congregation no longer has a Lutheran day school and there is not one near where they live. They asked our district office for a list of our congregations that have a day school. They saw the name Red Bud on that list and thought it sounded nice, so now they are directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to our congregation's school ministry. What a nice surprise!

I mention this to you because in a recent letter from them, they included an article from the June 2nd edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. I think it was from the editorial page. It is called "The Catholic School Difference" but it made me think of the difference that our Lutheran schools offer to families.

The article highlights a study done by a professor and a doctoral student at the University of California in Santa Barbara. They determined that it is possible to instill self-discipline in students which is a virtue that will help them in their studies and later in life. One of their three key judgments is "Don't underestimate the power of religion to positively influence a child's behavior." I know that there are some differences in how this happens between Roman Catholic schools and Lutheran schools, I believe the researchers findings have merit.

First, our students are taught from the most important book in all of history, the Holy Bible. They are led to know the source of that book, God the Father. They are pointed to the main character of salvation's

story, God the Son, Jesus Christ. They are offered a relationship with the book's author, God the Holy Spirit.

Second, they are treated with, and their characters are formed by, God's words of Law and Gospel. The Law of God shows us our sin. The Gospel of God shows us our Savior. God's Word contains loving discipline and saving forgiveness. In this way, God's Word is not just one subject of the school day, but the overarching guide for how we view and value ourselves and others.

Third, our students are instructed by fellow Christians who know the faith of the Church, believe that teaching themselves, and model it every day as the saints and sinners that we are this side of heaven. They are free and encouraged to talk about Jesus with their students in and outside of the classroom.

Fourth, the governance of our school happens on a local level. You have elected fellow members of your congregation to serve on our Board of Parish Education. You have direct access to them with your input for them. Their hands are not tied by some politically correct government edict forced upon them by unknown bureaucrats in Springfield (read "Chicago") or Washington, DC.

I could say more about the benefits of a Lutheran Christian education, but if you have had the patience to read this far, thank you. More will come next month, particularly about our support for our congregation that has, is and will provide this education for the children of our family of faith.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

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Now that the "Dog Days of Summer," the month August, has arrived, we can hear the cicadas singing their songs reminding us that the season of Fall is approaching. The parents and grandparents are rushing around buying the school supplies, clothes, and trying to get the last vacation of the summer achieved.

The weather hasn't changed, it's still hot and humid, but something has changed in our attitude and in our lives. Hopefully, we have taken time walking with Jesus each day through His Word, worshipping Him and receiving His free gifts of love and forgiveness through the Body and Blood of our Savior. Our hearts are still burning with a deep desire to settle down and return to God's House so our faith is replenished, and strengthened as we gather together as the family of God.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians: *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every*

prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy..." Why would Paul feel that way about these fellow Christians? He tells us why: *"because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

Through the promises of Baptism, God sealed us in an eternal relationship with Him. Yes, we will keep sinning especially in our thoughts, words and the way we choose to live our lives. But Paul reminds us that it is *"God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* Will we do it perfectly, of course not, our sinful nature prevents that. Again Paul encourages us to *"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."*

God has filled us with His presence. He has made us the "Light of Christ." We have been called out of the darkness of our sins to live in the light of His grace. Is God finished working in our hearts? Take a look around you and you know the answer to that question.

Paul continues to remind us: *"And I am sure of this, that He (Jesus) who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* God graciously allows us to be an active part of His ministry here at St. John's. It is exciting to see the faithful people of God giving thanks, praising and offering their gifts for the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ risen from the dead. We walk by faith, living in His grace, trusting His promise. To God be the glory!

Your brother in Christ, Rev. Russell E. Koen

Evening Guild News

The SID LWML 39th Biennial Convention is September 28 and 28 at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School in Centralia. Registration forms are available on the web site at www.sidlwml.com. Registration forms are due by August 15 to Marie Voges (282-2554).

We will enjoy a Women's Retreat at Pour Vineyard with Guest Jessica Bordeleau on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. It will include a Salad / Appetizer Buffet. Join the women of St John's for an evening of renewal. More details coming....

The quilting schedule for August is Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The quilting room is a great place for fellowship!

Baldwin Sight Center: Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Baldwin Center on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. We will do the 9th and

23rd in August. Call Mary Ann Wegener (282-2893) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

“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

Sunday Morning Pastor’s Bible Class

Our 9:30 a.m. class for adults and youth in the Fellowship Hall continues our study of “The Lord’s Prayer” in August as we cover the petitions that deal with our spiritual needs.

Check our website under the Media tab for Bible studies that you can do on your own during the summer months. So far the topics are Angels, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, The Justice of God, Purses, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, Baptism Q & A, Discussing Homosexuality, Word Dwellers, Heaven, God’s Will in the Lives of His People, Communications Skills, Having the Right Attitude, and more to come!

From the Principal’s Pen

I hope you have been enjoying summer! We are experiencing some resort-style weather lately. I have not heard any complaints! Temperatures only in the mid 80’s are wonderful for late July weather!

The new school year will be here before we know it! All summer long our custodians have been working to repair, clean and wax all classrooms and hallways. A new and major renovation is the new flooring in the second grade room. We had enough tile left over from the building expansion project to cover a classroom. With the floor in Mrs. Liefer’s room having such a busy pattern, her room got the update. With everything removed from the room, a coat of fresh paint makes it look brand new!



The new look to our second grade classroom!

Another addition was adding a water fountain in the new gym back hallway. Now the students will not have to leave the gym during recess or practice times as drinking water will be available. Our custodians also used left over materials to clean and organize the custodian closet in the original school building. It looks great and is no longer an eyesore because it is fresh and clean! We thank the PTL for paying for these updates to the building from the Dinner Auction funds. Needless to say, thank you to everyone who supported the dinner auction, we could not complete projects without your help!

Registration/Book Night went well but not all families have yet registered. Please do so as quickly as possible and by July 31 to avoid additional charges.

The theme for the new school year will be **Let His Light Shine** from John 8:12 where Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” We look forward to sharing the word of God with our students on how to walk in His light. With a new school year a new t-shirt is designed. Many families ordered extra shirts but if you did not get a chance to do so, orders must be placed by August 24.

The teachers have gathered several times to work on schedules and make plans for the new school year. On August 1 we will have our first faculty meeting. On August 2 we will attend the Day of Spiritual Renewal at Trinity Lutheran School in Edwardsville. The program for this year is “Being Christian in a Non-Christian World” with Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton as the presenter. The teachers will have orientation meetings and home/individual visits for you to know what is going on in the classroom. Other meetings are scheduled for August 14, 16 and 20. Many school families will attend the Cardinal Baseball game on August 19. The first day of school is August 21 with a 1:48 p.m. dismissal time. Please line up on the parking lot in two lines for dismissal. We ask that all cars stay in place until all students are dismissed in safely in cars. Please remember to turn right exiting the parking lot to keep traffic flowing. Teacher rededication will be on Sunday, August 26 in the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Enjoy the rest of summer! I am looking forward to a few days with our family for fun and relaxation.

God’s blessings to you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

Rebecca Stamm, transferred in from Trinity, Prairie
July 7 Baptism of Huxton Randall Grohmann

We Bid a Fond Farewell

July 2 Death of Donald Winkelmann

July 4 Death of Doris Koch

July 20 Death of Bernadine Kruse

Sunday School News

We are on a summer break until our Rally Day celebration on August 19. We will plan fun, team-building activities for our students to begin the new year on that date. Our first day of classes will be on August 26. There will be an intergenerational Bible gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Sept. 2. We will pick up again with lessons on Sept. 9. Until then, the weekend bulletin has subjects, Bible passages and questions to be answered for anyone to do some personal, independent Sunday School study to finish the summer.

Junior Youth Activities

The next Junior Youth event will be a welcome back to school pool party at the residence of Mike and Jennifer Roscow. This will be for all incoming 4th to 8th grade students. Check the weekend bulletin, Cougar Tracks and Facebook for date, time and more details. For more information or answers to questions, please call or text Jennifer Roscow at 618-972-5366.

Senior Youth Activities

August 5 and September 9 at noon - monthly meetings Wednesday, September 12 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall is our NYG commitment meeting with registration paperwork filled out and deposits due. This meeting is very important as the number of guests determines the amount of money we'll need to fundraise.

*God's blessings, Terry and Susie Harms
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men
stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will
renew their strength. Isaiah 40:30*

Secret Angels for 8th Graders

Secret Angels are those who pray for one of our 8th grade students (day school and public school), encourage them in their studies with regular notes and small gifts and remember them with something nice at occasional special times (e.g. birthday, Christmas, etc.). If you are interested in being such a person, contact Pastor Nebel. He will provide you with an information form that the student will have completed after school starts.

Job Openings for Before and After School Care

Cindy Nebel, our Director of Before and After School Care, is taking applications for assistants (age 16+) to work with elementary students before school (roughly 6:30 to 7:45 a.m.) and the other shift from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please contact Cindy at 618/237-8246 or cfnebel@stjohnsredbud.org or the school office (ext. 213) if you are interested in this position.

Vitae Foundation Pro-Life Dinner

Vitae Foundation is hosting a Pro-Life Dinner on Thursday, August 9 at Four Points By Sheraton in Fairview Heights. Our featured speaker is John Foppe. Born without arms, Foppe provides dramatic evidence that every life matters. He travels the globe motivating audiences as the founder of Visionary Velocity Worldwide. He is the author of the inspirational classic, "What's Your Excuse?" and host of the docu-reality TV series, "The World at My Feet." Foppe's dynamic and entertaining witness will set hearts on fire for LIFE! Tickets are \$25 per person. Seating is limited to those with reservations. Reserve your seats online at www.VitaeFoundation.org/events or by calling 573-634-4316.



The offering from this year's Road to Calvary Pageant was given to our Senior Youth. Pictured at the presentation are Brendan Harms and Katie Harms (front row); and Pastor Mark Nebel, Bryce Becker, Wyatt Cowell and Terry Harms (back row).

August Assistants from the Altar Guild

Flower Servers: Betty Schmitz and Cindy Steele

Chancel Parameters: Irma Birkner

Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Welcome Back to School

Pictorial Directories Available

Copies of our recent pictorial directory are available for purchase from our office for \$50. This money goes for our congregation's debt relief. This would make a great gift for that family member who has moved away from Red Bud but would still like to keep in contact with people here at St. John's.

Estate Fund Assistance

Our Estate Fund Committee has money available to assist with the Christian Education of St. John's members who are pursuing a church professional career and attending one of our seminaries or Concordia universities, as well as money to help those who attending a Lutheran high school. Please realize that this help is available as you consider your career and educational choices.

Event Reminders on Your Cell Phones

Remind Me.com is a free system that will allow us to send text messages to you reminding you of what is happening in our family of faith. However, it does not allow for group discussions so there will be no continued unwanted messages from anyone in the group receiving the text. To join this remind system for St. John's, simply text the message @2h9de to the number 81010. If you have any questions about this please contact our office at 282-2394. Thank you!

Set Up Direct Payments Through ACH

Routine payments to St. John's now can be made by direct electronic withdrawal. If you choose, payments for such as offerings, school lunches, preschool tuition, and daycare can be automatically withdrawn securely from the bank account you designate at either bi-weekly or monthly intervals. To set up this option, simply fill out a form in the school office and select each payment account you would like to have automatically withdrawn. It is free to set up. You can make changes or cancel at any time at no cost. If there are insufficient funds in the specified account at the time of payment, no funds will be withdrawn and the user will be notified. We hope that this option offers convenience to users and will result in a greater level of efficiency for our congregation. This is completely optional. No one is required to sign up. If you feel more comfortable continuing to make payments via cash or check, please do so! *Kara Wagner, Treasurer*

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. August 4 5 p.m. Kole Guebert*

Sun. August 5 8 a.m. Ashton Liefer
10:30 a.m. Simone Liefer

Sat. August 11 5 p.m. Caleb Guebert*
Sun. August 12 8 a.m. Madison Pensoneau*
10:30 a.m. Jeremy Collins

Sat. August 18 5 p.m. Maggie DuFrenne*
Sun. August 19 8 a.m. Jesse Crafton*
10:30 a.m. Grace Guebert

Sat. August 25 5 p.m. Lyla Hess
Sun. August 26 8 a.m. Lucas Guebert
10:30 a.m. Maggie Brown

Sat. Sept. 1 5 p.m. Kane Trost
Sun. Sept. 2 8 a.m. Melayna Crafton
10:30 a.m. Trace Wagner

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. August 4 5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. August 5 8 a.m. Ken and Joan Voges; Lisa Quinn
10:30 a.m. Bob and Arlene Pratt;
Omer and Neva Liefer

Sat. August 11 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. August 12 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer;
Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

Sat. August 18 5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. August 19 8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt;
Ken and Joan Ruwald
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel;
Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

Sat. August 25 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. August 26 8 a.m. Milton and Mary Ann Weber;
Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert;
Carl and Flo Zschiegner

Sat. Sept. 1 5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Sept. 2 8 a.m. Wil and Martha Krick;
Cindy Steele & Olivia Schmitz
10:30 a.m. Larry and Cindy Ebers;
Vernon and Evelyn Muench

There is an opening in our 10:30 a.m. schedule for a couple or for two individuals to serve as greeters. Please call the church office if you are willing to help!

August Church and School Calendar

Monday, July 30-

6:30 p.m. 3-year-olds Preschool Orientation

7:30 p.m. 4-year-olds Preschool Orientation

Tuesday, July 31-

12:30 to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 1-

9:00 a.m. School faculty meeting

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

7:00 p.m. Kindergarten Parent Orientation in school cafeteria

Thursday, August 2-

Faculty at the SID Day of Spiritual Renewal in Edwardsville

Saturday, August 3-

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

SUNDAY, August 5-

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

9:30 a.m. Pastor's Class for Adults/Youth in Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

2:00 p.m. Pastor Nebel has the devotional service at RBCC

Monday, August 6- Deitt and Julie on vacation this week

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

Tuesday, August 7-

12:30 to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' meeting in library

Wednesday, August 8-

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, August 9-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

Saturday, August 11-

9 & 11 a.m. Baseball & Softball at Chester Junior High

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, August 12-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

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

Monday, August 13-

4:15 p.m. Baseball & Softball at Red Bud Elementary School

Tuesday, August 14-

9 a.m. School faculty meeting

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

12:30 – 3:00 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting

Wednesday, August 15-

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office staff meeting

Thursday, August 16-

9:00 a.m. School faculty meeting in school library

4:15 p.m. 5th grade baseball at Steeleville

6:00 p.m. Softball and Baseball at St. John, Chester

Friday, August 17-

4:15 p.m. Baseball and Softball at Valmeyer

Saturday, August 18-

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

SUNDAY, August 19- School students sing at Cards game!

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

9:30 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Rally Day activities in new gym

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, August 20-

8:00 a.m. School faculty meeting

4:15 p.m. 5th grade baseball home vs. St. Mary's, Chester

6:00 p.m. COS Lutheran HS BBQ and opening service

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

Tuesday, August 21- First Day of School

8:30 a.m. Opening School Service at Church

12:30 – 3:00 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

4:15 p.m. Baseball and Softball home vs. Evansville

Wednesday, August 22-

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

Thursday, August 23-

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

4:15 p.m. B Team Softball at Red Bud Catholic

Saturday, August 25- Cross Country at MELHS-Eds'ville

p.m. Wedding of Bridgett Voss and Joshua Kennedy

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, August 26-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Class; Sunday School

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

Monday, August 27-

4:15 p.m. 5th Grade Baseball home vs. St. John, Chester

Tuesday, August 28-

12:30 – 3:00 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

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

4:15 p.m. Baseball home vs. St. Mary's, Chester

Wednesday, August 29-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service at church

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

3:30 p.m. 6-8th grades Public School confirmation

Thursday, August 30- September Epistle Articles are due!

4:15 p.m. Baseball and Softball at Coulterville

4:15 p.m. 5th Grade Baseball at Evansville

Saturday, September 1- Cross Country at Pinckneyville

7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

9:00 p.m. Baseball and Softball DH at Red Bud Elementary

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

SUNDAY, September 2-

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

9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Bible Gathering in Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

To God Be the Glory!