

The Epistle
January 2019

**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

If Christ Had Not Come

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

Scholars disagree as to the exact date of Christ's birth. Nor do they know that the Church of the Nativity that's visited every day by pilgrims in Bethlehem, is the exact location of His birth. Nor can any of us comprehend how by the Holy Spirit, a virgin girl could conceive a child. But here's the good news: you don't have to know when, where, or how Jesus was born, you just need to know why. *'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16).* Only four things matter: 1) If Christ had not come, God would be unknown to us. 2) If Christ had not come, our sins would be unforgiven. The name Jesus means 'Yahweh saves!' John the Baptist called Him *'the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world'*. 3) If Christ had not come, our prayers would be

unanswered. In Bible days you needed a priest to petition God on your behalf. And Jesus is our High Priest who *"understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most"* (Hebrews 4:15-16). 4) If Christ had not come the first time, we would have no assurance that He will come the second time and catch us away to heaven to be with Him.

Prayer- *Heavenly Father, Thank you for coming to us in Jesus to save us and give us eternity with You! In Jesus' Name, Amen*

Your Pastor's Ponderings

We will celebrate the visit of the Magi (wise men) to the holy child Jesus with Holy Communion services the weekend of January 5 and 6 (Epiphany). This will be the last time to see the church decorated for the season.

Our annual Voters Assembly meeting will be Sunday, January 27, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Under our revised constitution, every communicant member of St. John's age 18 and older is a voting member. Please attend this meeting as we will vote on new officers and board members for the coming year(s).

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

Bible Class Opportunities in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. "Ecclesiastes" (Pastor Nebel)

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. "Acts" (Pastor Koen in school library)

Men's Bible Breakfast, 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 7 a.m.

"Angels" (Nebel)

Wednesday Women, 9:30 a.m. "Sip, Savor and Drink

Deeply" (J. Fritsche)

Thursday Sunrise, 6:30 a.m. "1st Corinthians" (Pr Nebel)

Thursday Women, 8:15 a.m. "Proverbs" (Julie Fehr)

Thursday Ladies, 9:30 a.m. "Bible History" (D. Mueller)

Check our website under the Media tab for Bible studies topics that you can do on your own! There are many interesting topics available and more to come.

Winter and Beyond

The tree in winter stands so bare,
But in the spring its leaves are there.

It seems that God will do as much
For us created by His touch.

Death is not the end,
For Jesus is the door
That opens wide upon
A life forevermore.
Vic Both, 10-31-18



8th Grade Recognition for Boys' Basketball and Cheerleading was held on December 18. From left to right are Natalie, Ashton and Matthew Liefer; Kristin, Anna and Glen Wolter; Allan, Madison and Traci Proctor; Amy, Carolyne and Tom Mulherin; and Jenn, Noah and John Tepe.

From the Principal's Pen

By the time you read this article, Christmas 2018 will be over. Or, will it? The Christmas season lasts till Epiphany, January 6. The packages will have been opened, the feasts enjoyed, the decorations and trees taken down and the lights turned off, but Christmas remains. For Christians, the season continues throughout the year with the Good News of our Savior. May your hearts always be filled with the love, joy, hope and peace of Christmas!

December was a busy month with Christmas services and basketball games. All three of the school Christmas services were well attended and the students did a great job of leading us in recitation and song. The girls' basketball season comes to a close soon. Our girls are Okaw Valley Conference Champs! The boys will have several tournaments in January with the Okaw Valley conference and all Lutheran tournaments. We wish them well as they represent our school. All 8th grade parents were recognized at the last home games on Dec. 14 and 18 for girls and boys basketball and cheerleading. Before we know it, the girls will begin the volleyball season and cheerleaders will continue to prepare for the LSA competition in March.

School begins on January 7 for the students. I cannot remember ever starting this late in past years but know the students will enjoy the long break from school work. January 16 will be an early dismissal day. I will attend a Principal's Conference on January 18 in Okawville. We observe Dr. Martin Luther King day on January 21. We will hold our annual Geography Bee on January 23. Mr. Jeffrey Fick, our School and General Executive from the Southern Illinois District, will visit our school on January 25. We will also celebrate Lutheran Schools Week at the end of the month.

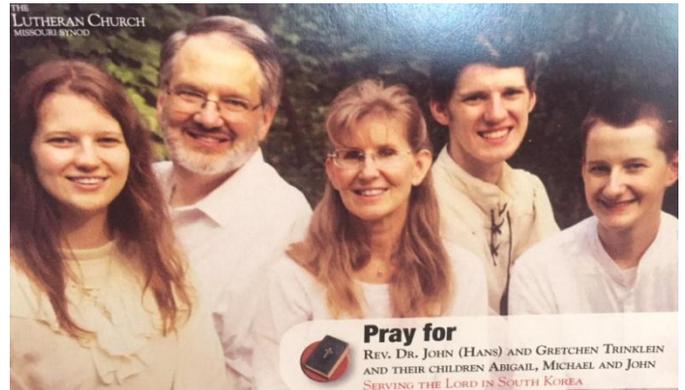
Please mark your calendar: we will hold school registration for Preschool and Kindergarten on February 10 with a soup luncheon. Everyone is welcome. We will have entertainment for all to enjoy!

God's blessings to you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider

Sunday School News

Rally Day activities went so well that we are planning a renewal of Rally Day event for January 6 to start the second half of our Sunday School year.

Please consider sending an offering with your child to help cover the cost of materials and to support our mission project for the year. We are supporting LCMS missionary to South Korea, Rev. Dr. Hans Trinklein and his family. He formerly served as pastor of Olive Branch Lutheran Church in rural Okawville (pictured below).



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



At our December 18 boys' basketball game, the Southern Illinois Substance Abuse Alliance and Red Bud Regional Hospital provided an "In Plain Sight" event with the Gateway Foundation of Carbondale. About 40 people examined the display and listened to a presentation by Michelle Bertinetti (pictured on left). Dennis Trask, staff coordinator with our local Human Service Center, thanked St. John's for hosting this event, "You really are making a difference with our families and children."

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

December 2 Baptism of Damon Bradley Renner
December 26 Baptism of Julia Dane Tribo
December 30 Baptism of Witten Clyde Walter Cheek

Evening Guild News

Our Evening Guild Gathering this month is January 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with special guest Rebecca Cooper, CFP. Devotions will be led by Patti Liefer. Our hostesses are Janet Braun (chair), Carolyn Cooper, Brenda Gilpatrick and Gladys Brand. All women of the congregation are invited to attend!

The quilting schedule for January 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! There are many orders waiting. All help is appreciated!

Baldwin Sight Center: Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Baldwin Center this month on the 10th and 24th in January. 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

Senior Youth Activities

This is on the SLY (St. John's Lutheran Youth)

Our monthly meeting is Sunday, January 6 at noon in the church basement. Thanks for all the great help at the late night Christmas Eve service!

Info about the National Youth Gathering - We have 24 youth and 6 adults registered to go. We are selling stock for the gathering as a fundraiser. If you would like to "invest" in the youth, please contact us. Youth group members sent out letters to ask for support. If you did not receive one and would be interested, we'd love to talk to you.

God's blessings, Terry & 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

Save the Date!

The annual Lutheran Older Adult Retreat, "Growing in Christ" will be held on May 1-2, 2019 at Pere Marquette Lodge under the theme, "From Age to Age the Same." Keynote Speaker will be humorist Jan Struck and Rev. Mark Femmel of Zion in Maryland Heights, Missouri will be the Bible study leader. Registration fee is \$100 (plus lodging). Contact Margo Wolf at 618-622-0264 or dmwvete74@gmail.com.

"Down With The Debt"

A generous matching gift has been given to us. Our "Down With the Debt" offer resulted in \$103,033 received. Thank you to our donor and to all who contributed to this match! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Special Presentations on Topics of the Faith

"What about....The Bible....Christianity...Prayer."
Presentations on topics of the Christian faith are coming in February hosted by St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Evansville & St. John's Lutheran Church in Ruma.

Set Up Direct Payments Thru 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*

Pictorial Directories Available

Copies of our latest pictorial directory are available for purchase from our office for \$50. This money goes for our congregation's debt relief.

Assistants from the Altar Guild

Flower Servers: Diana Becker and Briana Becker
Chancel Paraments: Carol Turner
Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Beta Sigma Psi College Scholarships

Lutheran young men who are interested in living up to the ideals of being a Christian gentleman and who are starting college in Fall 2019 can apply for a \$2,000 Martin Luther Scholarship for any 4-year college or university, or for a \$1,500 Christian Leadership Award for Purdue University, Indiana University or the University of Illinois. Applications are due by February 16. Apply online at <http://scholarships.betasigmapi.org>.

Thank You So Very Much

We are so very grateful for the many ways that you remembered us during the Christmas season with your kind thanks and well wishes. So many of you were very generous to us with cards, gifts, money and food items. Your kindness to us fills our lives with joy. We thank you for Your goodness. We praise God for His calling of us to serve you in Jesus' Name!

Pastor Mark and Cindy Nebel; Pastor Russell and Lauri Koen, Principal Deitt Schneider, and the teachers and staff of St. John's Lutheran Church and School

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!

Acolyte Schedule

Mon. December 31	6 p.m. Cadin Voss
Tue. January 1	10 a.m. Sofia Jones
Sat. January 5	5 p.m. Kane Trost
Sun. January 6	8 a.m. Lucas Guebert 10:30 a.m. Trace Wagner
Sat. January 12	5 p.m. Mitchell Fleming
Sun. January 13	8 a.m. Melayna Crafton 10:30 a.m. Dustin Salger
Sat. January 19	5 p.m. Cailee Strong
Sun. January 20	8 a.m. Jacob Kuehner 10:30 a.m. Maggie Brown
Sat. January 26	5 p.m. Kaci Trost
Sun. January 27	8 a.m. Noah Tepe 10:30 a.m. Ashlynn Crafton
Sat. February 2	5 p.m. Olivia Schluter
Sun. February 3	8 a.m. Sam Wright 10:30 a.m. Claire Diewald

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

Travel Opportunities

A 22-day Europe and Transatlantic Cruise from Oct. 19-Nov. 8, 2019 from New York to Copenhagen and back to New Orleans on the Norwegian Jewel with 10 port stops and all ship-board meals.

An 11-day Alpine Europe tour with the Passion Play in Oberammergau from September 16-26, 2020.

Both trips are with veteran tour leaders Rev. Cliff and Lois Winter of Wichita, Kansas. Call 316/461-2593 or email loiswinter@yahoo.com

OR

Christmas Markets Along the Rhine, Dec. 1-12, 2019 with Rev. Gary and Kathy Byers of Belleville. This small ship cruise is all-inclusive (meals and beverages) as you pass 60 castles, visit the Gutenberg Museum and experience the sights, smells and tastes of Christmas in four countries. Contact Kathy at 618-235-0612 or kmbpastels@aol.com.

Worship Greeter Schedule

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Sat. Jan. 5	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Jan. 6	8 a.m. Wil and Martha Krick; Cindy Steele & Olivia Schmitz 10:30 a.m. Ken & Karen Wetzel; Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. Jan. 12	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Jan. 13	8 a.m. John and Norma Preston; Loren Harms & Lois Mesnarich 10:30 a.m. Jim & Judy Guebert; Carl and Flo Zschiegner
Sat. Jan. 19	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Jan. 20	8 a.m. Ken and Joan Voges; Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Larry & Cindy Ebers; Vernon and Evelyn Muench
Sat. Jan. 26	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Jan. 27	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer; Gerald and Jill Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Bob and Arlene Pratt; Omer and Neva Liefer
Sat. Feb. 2	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Feb. 3	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt; Ken and Joan Ruwald 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

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!

January Church and School Calendar

Monday, December 31-

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, January 1, 2019- *The Name of Jesus*

10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Matins Service

Wednesday, January 2-

Boys & Girls B Team Basketball Tourney at Holy Cross thru Sat.

6:30 p.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting in the school library

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Deuteronomy)

Thursday, January 3-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1 Corinthians)

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, January 4-

9:00 a.m. School teachers' meeting in the school library

Saturday, January 5-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

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

SUNDAY, January 6- *The Epiphany of Our Lord*

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

9:30 a.m. Adult/Youth Bible Classes; Sunday School Rally

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

Noon Senior Youth meeting in the church basement

Monday, January 7- *Boys OVC Basketball Tourney this week*

7:00 p.m. Choir practice at school

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

Tuesday, January 8-

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

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference in Baldwin

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

5:00 p.m. Girls' basketball at New Athens vs. St. Libory

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 9-

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

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Quilting at church

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

3:30 p.m. 6th-8th Grade Public School Confirmation classes

7:30 p.m. Bible class in the Fellowship Hall (Deuteronomy)

Thursday, January 10-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

8:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Advanced Bible History in FH

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

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

7:00 p.m. Men's Club meets in the Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Girls' Basketball at New Athens (if won on Tuesday)

Friday, January 11- *Report cards go home!*

Saturday, January 12- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, January 13-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult/Youth Bible Classes

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

Monday, January 14- 7:00 p.m. Choir practice at school

Tuesday, January 15-

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

6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball AB at Valmeyer

7:00 p.m. Evening Guild gathers in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 16-

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

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Quilting at church

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office staff meeting

1:18 p.m. Early dismissal from school

2:00 p.m. 8th Grade Public School Confirmation class

6:00 p.m. Board of Education meets in the school library

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Deuteronomy)

Thursday, January 17- *Boys' basketball ALT thru weekend*

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

8:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Advanced Bible History in FH

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, January 18- 8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel

Saturday, January 19-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

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

SUNDAY, January 20-

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible classes

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

Monday, January 21- *MLK Day; No School! Office Closed!*

7:00 p.m. Choir practice at school

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

Tuesday, January 22-

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

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

Wednesday, January 23- *Girls' Volleyball tourney at RBC*

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

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Quilting at church

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

1:00 p.m. School Geography Bee

3:30 p.m. 6th-8th Grades Public School Confirmation

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Deuteronomy)

Thursday, January 24-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

8:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Advanced Bible History in FH

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

4:00 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in the FH

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, January 25- *Girls' C Volleyball tourney at RBHS*

Saturday, January 26- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, January 27-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible classes

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

1:00 p.m. Annual Voters Assembly meeting in the FH

Monday, January 28-

5:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball ABC at home vs. Valmeyer

7:00 p.m. Choir practice at school

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

Tuesday, January 29-

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

5:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball ABC at Chester Junior High

Wednesday, January 30-

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

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Quilting at church

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

3:30 p.m. 6th-8th Grades Public School Confirmation

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Deuteronomy)

Thursday, January 31-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

8:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Advanced Bible History in FH

4:15 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Coulterville

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony