

## **This Week With Our Lord, December 22-29, 2019**

*When activities are in the Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation.*

### **SUNDAY, December 22-** Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Check

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School at school; Adult & Youth Bible Classes in the FH

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

### **Monday, December 23-**

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

### **Tuesday, December 24-** Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service Acolyte: Ryker Papenberg

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight

### **Wednesday, December 25-** *The Nativity of Our Lord; Office Closed*

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Communion Service Acolyte: Natalie Korando

### **Thursday, December 26-** Office Closed

### **Saturday, December 28-**

5:00 p.m. Divine Service Acolyte: Taylor Guebert

Greeters: Virginia and Mark Moeller

### **SUNDAY, December 29-**

8:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion Acolyte: Christine Liefer

Greeters: Kalin and Kathy Liefer; Gerald and Jill Hanebutt

9:30 a.m. Sunday School at school; Adult and Youth Bible Class in the FH

10:30 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion Acolyte: Hailey Proctor

Greeters: Jim and Judy Guebert; Carl and Flo Zschiegner

### **NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP READINGS**

Old Testament: Isaiah 63:7-14; Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

### **FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:**

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 282-3873 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

### **THE LUTHERAN HOUR:**

So long as there is time, God won't leave us alone-even if we say that's what we want. The message of Christmas is that God has come to be with us and He's here to stay. How do we know? Dr. Michael Zeigler says God has given us both direct and indirect signs that point us toward this truth. Listen to "Here to Stay" (Matthew 1:18-25) with Speaker Dr. Michael Zeigler on KFUE AM 850 Sunday at 12:30 & 5 p.m. or on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. (KSIV 1320 AM or 91.5 FM).

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:**

Weekend Worship: 372; Communion: 97; Adult/Youth: 67; Sunday School: 60

Sunday School Christmas: 200 Grades 3-8 Christmas Service: AM- 320; PM- 490

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

### **WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE'ER THE GIFT MAY BE:**

We join with one another in the grace of giving. 12/15- General Fund: \$16,467.61; School: \$330; Debt: \$20,159.88; Matching: \$50; Bell Choir: \$100; Sunday School Christmas Service: \$3,239; Preschool Scholar Help: \$100. *"The people shall not appear before their Lord empty-handed. Every one shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that He has given you."* (Deuteronomy 16:16c-17).

### **GOODSEARCH:**

When you use Goodsearch ([www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)) for the benefit of St. John's Lutheran School as your computer search engine we get one cent!

### **PORTALS OF PRAYER:**

The next edition (1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020) of our daily devotional *Portals of Prayer* is available in the racks by the front and back doors of church. Sonshine Visitation members, please take a copy for the people that you visit.

### **2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES:**

Offering envelopes for 2020 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not have a box assigned to you, but want one, please call the church office at 282-2394.

### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS:** *LCMS Stewardship Resources*

Matt. 1:21 – "She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Jesus has done what our good works could never do. He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, and set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do – truly motivate us to truly good works – Jesus' love has done.

### **TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

"Homecoming Hopes" is our lesson this week. King Artaxerxes sends Ezra as a priest and scribe to teach and lead the people at the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. Nehemiah convinces the king to send him to Jerusalem to repair the city wall. Despite opposition from Israel's neighbors, repairs are completed in record time. Nehemiah, Ezra, and the priests lead the people in a joyous rededication of the wall. *Discuss together, "What homecoming can we look forward to as God's children?"*

### **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John's member Doris Hartmann who died in the Lord on Friday. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:**

12/22- Addalyn Schloemann; 12/23- Olivia Schluter, Nik Stechmesser; 12/24- Camden Moll, Emmeliagh Wittenborn; 12/25- Laura DuFrenne, Wayne Mesnarich, Ken Ruwald; 12/26- Christiana Gidley, Michael VanDorn; 12/27- Angie Cartee, Lynn Langrehr, Andrea Liefer, Rick Liefer, Bailey Montroy, Louie Stellhorn; 12/28- Carl Becker, Addison Dilley, Linda Koester, Bentley Valentine, Brenda vanBuren. *Please call the office for additions or corrections!*

### **BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE:**

An open house in honor of Ken Ruwald's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday will be held in St. John's Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 22, from 1-3 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Joan at 618/977-8061.

### **SENIOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES:**

Tuesday, December 24- Christmas Eve candlelight service at 9 p.m. We will greet, usher, acolyte. Please be at church by 8:30 p.m. No jeans or t-shirts. Dress up modestly please. Sunday, January 5- Progressive Dinner. Meet at school to carpool by 3:30 p.m. We will travel to these homes: Lucht, Proctor, Liefer, and Henry. Depending on how many youth attend, I may need another driver for the evening. **\*\*No regular meeting on this date\*\*** Sunday, January 12- Snowtubing at Hidden Valley Ski Resort 3-6 p.m. Cost is \$20 for three hours of tubing. Meet at school at 2 p.m. to carpool. We will need parent drivers. Siblings and friends can be invited. Text Susie (618-201-5654) to RSVP for the progressive dinner and the snowtubing.

### **USHERS NEEDED:**

We welcome anyone to assist with our worship services as an usher. You will be part of a team that serves three months at a time and then is off for a year. See Head Usher Scot Heller or Pastor Nebel if you are interested.

### **MITES FOR MISSIONS:**

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite, the Mite Box is intended for regular contribution of 'mites' – offerings above and beyond regular support. Many Lutheran Women in Mission have used the Mite Box to gather funds in support of national, district and local ministries. We invite everyone to contribute to the Mite Box, providing the opportunity for us to spread the Gospel to the World. Extra Mite Boxes are on table in narthex. Place your contributions in the large LWML Mite Box.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT:**

The Southern Illinois District Lutheran Emergency Response Team is the mission project for our Sunday School students this year. Ten percent of their offering will go to support this ministry of assistance to those who have suffered from fire, flood, wind, etc. We hope to have a trained team from St. John's at some point in the future.

### **ALUMNI NEWS:**

+The recent edition of the St. John's Lutheran School *Alumni News* is available on the tables in the entryway for those who do not get it in the mail.

+An Alumni Dinner is being planned for Saturday, February 29, at 6:30 p.m. It will be a "Lutheran Educated Alumni Party for You, Everyone and All to Rejoice." More information to come.

### **THE PRAYER CHAIN:**

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. If you would like to serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please call Vickie at 618/521-7417. Call the church office if you would like to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR SPECIAL SERVICES:**

December 24- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service

December 24- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service

December 31- 6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service

January 1- 10 a.m. New Year's Day Matins Service

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY CONFINED IN-HOME:**

Don and Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Donald Kueker, Joyce Lopez, Jean Menke, Edna Moeller, Elda Seders.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AT:**

Red Bud Care Center: Virginia Bahr, Melba Liefer, Wilma Wagner and Jody Winkelmann; Waterloo Garden Place- Alice Smith; Ruma R & R- Fern Schnepel, Willard Uffelmann; Waterloo Magnolia Place- June Lawrence

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AT RED BUD GARDEN PLACE:**

Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Vernon and Evelyn Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Dr. Paul Schrieber, Gloria Stellhorn, Wilma Stellhorn, Leonard & Norma Vogt, Helen Winkelman.

### **KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:**

Listen to KFUE AM850, the broadcast arm of the LCMS, as we share Christ for you anytime, anywhere via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! This week on KFUE AM850, we wish you a very Merry Christmas! Hear special programming for the 12 Days of Christmas on KFUE including prayers, readings, and hymns, from December 24 - January 6. [Page 4](#)

### **ISSUES, ETC.:**

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week you can listen to Christmas hymn studies on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising," "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth," "Let All Together Praise Our God," and "From East to West." You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

### **LIFE THOUGHTS:** (from *Lutherans for Life*) [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

The Gospel has adopted at its heart. Joseph took Mary's baby for his own (Matthew 1:24), and man adopts the God who had adopted His created beings as His children. We rejoice both to own this grace and to enact it unto others. It energizes us to receive every child as gift instead of as a right. And God extends this opportunity to any Christian home, not just those experiencing infertility!

### **PARISH NURSE NOTE:** from *LCMS Better Health*

Stop by our table in the Fellowship Hall and let us check your blood pressure for you. Don't let the cold stop you from getting out and exercising. The most effective and proven ways to reduce your chance of catching a cold is regularly to wash your hands (especially before you eat), and avoid touching your mouth, eyes or nose.

### **AREA CONCERTS:**

+Sun., December 22, 3 pm, "Handel's Messiah" at Zion Lutheran in Belleville

+The Concordia Theological Seminary Kantorei will lead music for the season of Epiphany at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Hamel on Friday, January 10th at 7 p.m. The Kantorei is a men's choir of students studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand. St. Paul's address is 6969 W. Frontage Rd. Worden, Illinois. All are welcome to attend. For more information, visit [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu)

### **CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL 618-853-7300**

**Office Hours:** COS will be on Christmas break until January 3. During this time, the office will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. The office will be open from 9-noon on New Year's Eve. The office will be closed December 24, 25, 26, and January 1. Regular office hours will resume January 6.

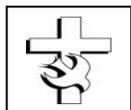
**COS Trivia Night:** The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual COS trivia night will be January 31, 2020 at 7 p.m. with a Disney theme. The cost is \$12 per person with a limit of eight to a table. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or under may attend for \$6 each. Reserve your table by calling 618-853-7300. Help us raise money to support Post-Prom at COS!

**Basketball:** Our basketball team has a break in their schedule until their next away game on January 10 at Brehm Preparatory in Carbondale. At our January 17 home game we will collect items for the homeless at our Hoops for the Homeless game. The list of items being collected is posted on our school website, [www.coslhs.org](http://www.coslhs.org).

**FFA Water Hydrant Project:** FFA would like to run a waterline from the gym to the FFA garden and install a hydrant. Designated donations are needed to make this a reality. If this project interests you, send your earmarked donation to COS.

**WIX Tops for FFA:** If you use WIX oil filters, please save the box tops with the bar code and turn them into the office or give them to a COS FFA member. The COS FFA chapter can turn them in and receive a donation.

**The mission of Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School is to provide a Christ-centered and academically excellent education.** [Page 5](#)



St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS  
 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois  
 Church Office & School: 808 South Main Street  
 (618) 282-3873 Fax 618-282-4087

E-mail: [office@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org) Web address: [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org)

Senior Pastor Mark Nebel 618-237-5802 or home 282-3050

Pastor Russell Koen 618-282-1958

Principal - Deitt Schneider 618-806-3049 or home: 824-6335

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 340-6055

Junior Youth - Lisa Quinn and Jennifer Roscow 282-5343

Athletic Director – Justin Palm 214-1103 Secretaries - Julie Ratz & Jessica Schloemann

Senior LYF – Terry and Susie Harms 618-201-5654; Pr. Russell Koen 282-1958

Matthew Foster, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool - Cindy Steele

Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller; Aide- Patty Schnepel

Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy

Fourth Grade – Bill Becker (Librarian)

Fifth Grade - Darlene Letcher and Cindy Nebel (Before/After School Care)

Sixth Grade Homeroom (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – Doreen Schnepel

Seventh Grade Homeroom (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – Nancy Whelan

Eighth Grade Homeroom and Athletic Director (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) – Justin Palm

Resource Teacher: Lara Vause

Custodians – Alan Ohms, Bob Schramm and Becky Rhodes

Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Jennifer Pfannebecker,

Lisa Quinn, Pam Henry, Nicole Kadlec, Eileen Seibold, Christy Deterding, Heidi

Guttman, Gerry Thompson, Melissa Schilling, Patricia Brewer, Kristi Martel,

Courtney Schoenbeck, Megan Diercks, Mary Novy, Terra Williams & Brittney Eichholz

Church Council

Chairman: Bruce Schneider Vice-Chairman: Ray Wagner

Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Gary Buatte Board of Finance: Ben Guebert

Elder Chair: Kevin Liefer Parish Education Chair: Miriam Poston

Trustee Chair: John Preston Estate Fund Chair: Jim Walker

Lutheran High School Board: Lisa Quinn and Kathy Valleroy

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher: Pastor Russell Koen Sunday Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel

Organist: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

(5 p.m.) Greeters: Harold and Deb Siegfried Acolyte: Lily Kent

(8:00 a.m.) Greeters: Ken and Joan Voges; Lisa Quinn

Lector: Seminarian Wade Waterstreet Acolyte: Cadin Voss

(10:30 a.m.) Greeters: Ken and Karen Wetzel; Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

Liturgist: Seminarian Cameron Harms Acolyte: Maggie Brown

Flower Servers: Debbie Liefer and Alverda Rahm

Chancel Paraments: Irma Birkner Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Red Bud, Illinois**

*The Fourth Sunday in Advent 2019*

WELCOME to St. John's Lutheran Church! We preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the sacraments and provide Christian education in service to all people. We are especially happy that we have visitors with us today. St. John's is a congregation which follows the historic order of Christian worship. Even if you are not Lutheran, you may recognize many of the elements of worship from your own tradition. If you or your small child needs a space for privacy during the service, Room 1 in the Fellowship Hall has a TV with a video feed of our worship service. To help with the reverent nature of our worship, please silence and do not use your cell phones and pagers during this service. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE: During the offering, please sign the black Friendship register at the end of the pew. We ask our guests to please fill out the red side of the card marked "Guests" in the attendance book and give it to an usher. We invite you to worship with us again very soon.

HEARING AND VISION ASSISTANCE: See an usher if you would like to check out a hearing assistance device during our worship service. You can sit anywhere you wish while wearing this device. You can adjust the volume as you desire. Please return it to an usher after worship. Large Print copies of the complete worship service and bulletin notes are available from an usher.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. Place a finger to your lips if you prefer an individual cup. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

SCHOOL: St. John's Lutheran School provides a quality Christ-centered education for our congregation and community to make and equip disciples of Jesus Christ. We offer classes from pre-school through eighth grade. Our school building is located two blocks south of the church. For information about our school and enrollment please call our principal, Mrs. Deitt Schneider, at the office (282-3873).

DAY CARE: St. John's provides a quality Christian-based day care. The curriculum includes an emphasis on Christian instruction with the full intent of following Dr. Martin Luther's ideal of leading a child to grow in spirit, mind and body. Full and part-time care is available for children ages six weeks to six years. Before- and after-school child care also is offered.

Worship is Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 & 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School, Youth and Adult Bible Classes are Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

8100 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois 62223  
Office: (618) 397-1407 Emergency: (618) 444-1800

+Check our website under the Media tab for Bible studies that you can do on your own. The topics so far are Angels, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, The Justice of God, Haggai, 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, Live By the Spirit, Malachi, Philemon, and more to come!

**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.

**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.

**BUILDING KEYS:**

Anyone who had a reason to have keys for our church or school buildings in the past but does not have a reason to have those keys any longer, please return them to our office so that those who now do need a key can be issued one.

**SET UP DIRECT PAYMENTS THROUGH ACH:**

If you so choose, payments for items such as worship offerings, school lunches, preschool tuition, and daycare can be withdrawn automatically and 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 (e.g. school lunches, offerings, etc). It is free to set up, and 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. Our hope is that this option will offer convenience to users and will result in a greater level of efficiency for our congregation. Please note that this is completely optional--no one is required to sign up. If you feel more comfortable continuing to use cash or check, please do so!

**PAYMENTS ON FAST DIRECT:**

Fast Direct now allows you to make payments online directly from Fast Direct using your credit or debit card! Simply log in, select Finance from the top of the page. You will add your credit or debit card info in the "wallet" section. Once that has been completed you can go to "make a payment". Be sure to select which account you want to make the payment to...tuition, lunch, daycare, After school care, etc. We are very excited about this new feature, but like always please call the office if you have any questions at all!!

**"RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD":**

Lost and Found items are on the coat rack shelf across from the restrooms. These include many umbrellas. Take a look, one of them may be yours!

**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 here at St. John's. However, it does not allow for group discussions so that there will not be continued unwanted messages from anyone in the group receiving the text. To join this remind system for St. John's, text the message @8243ad2 to the number 81010. Please contact our office at 282-2394 with your questions.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CHANGES:**

New labels soon will appear on participating products. Instead of clipping labels you will scan your receipt and use a new Box Tops mobile app that instantly will add those Box Tops points to our school's earnings. The traditional Box Tops still can be clipped and cash earned until they expire. Learn more at BTFE.COM/SNEAKPEEK or look at the sheet on the board by the glass door.

**ELDER ZONES FOR 2019:** (Chairman, Kevin Liefer)

- Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder Ron Kunkelmann (282-3504)
- Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Stuart Langrehr (282-2736)
- Zone 3: N/E Grohmann thru R/K Herriman- Elder Jacob Arbeiter (618/615-1108)
- Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Adam Guebert (618/920-2403)
- Zone 5: Wil/Martha Krick thru Janel Maes- Elder Kevin Liefer (618/521-9126)
- Zone 6: Pat Malik thru Lanie Pensoneau- Elder Quentin Stenzel (282-4661)
- Zone 7: A/A Piel thru Don Schrader- Elder Garon Schnepel (813/240-8978)
- Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Stanley Langrehr (282-3481)
- Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann thru Doug Zschiegner- Elder Bill Becker (282-2958)

**WORSHIP GREETERS NEEDED:**

There is an opening at our 10:30 a.m. service for a couple or for two individuals to serve as greeters once every five weeks. Please call the office if you can help!

**2020 WORK PLAN:**

Our budgeted expenses for Christian ministry here in our family of faith at St. John's for 2020 is \$1,563,873.81. Due largely to staffing changes that have and will take place this figure is \$65,640.28 below our 2019 Work Plan. This includes going from 92% to 93% of Southern Illinois District scale for our professional staff salaries. Thank you for our support of this ministry plan!

Signal Hill Counseling- *A Family Sharing Christ!*

Rev. Mark D. Wiesner, Mdiv, MS (Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist)