

# The Epistle

**APRIL 2020**

**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**

### **"How Big Is Your God?"**

Then David said to the Philistine, "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand...and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." *1 Samuel 17:45-47*

How you handle life depends on how big you believe God is. If He's too small: 1) You'll live in constant anxiety thinking everything depends on you. 2) Your outlook will be dictated by your surroundings – or worse, your critics. 3) Without the acceptance of a loving God you'll be a slave to people's opinions. 4) You'll constantly crave recognition because you don't understand that *'your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you'* (Matthew 6:4). Author John Ortberg says that when we make the mistake of shrinking God, we *'offer prayer without faith, work without passion, service without joy, and suffering without hope – which results in fear, retreat, loss of vision, and failure to persevere.'* When Goliath

threatened the Israelites, *'they were dismayed and greatly afraid'* (1 Samuel 17:11). They didn't think their God was big enough for the job. But not David! *'Let no one's heart fail...your servant will...fight...this Philistine. The Lord...who saved me from...the lion and...bear, will [save us now]'* (1 Samuel 17:32, 37). You can face anything when you know what David knew – *'the battle is the Lord's'*. And He's never lost one yet! So you don't have to depend on your own resources. David may have felt small, but he knew his God was big enough for the job. Do you know that? Eighteenth-century Anglican clergyman John Newton said, *'If the Lord be with us we have no cause for fear. His eye is upon us, His arm over us, His ear open to our prayer, His grace sufficient, [and] His promises unchangeable.'* It all depends on how big your God is!

**PRAYER- Heavenly Father, forgive me for thinking and acting as if You were smaller than You are. Help me step forward with what You place before me knowing YOU ARE THERE. In Jesus' Name, Amen**

**ALL PUBLIC ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED!  
SCHOOL AND DAYCARE ARE CLOSED!**

**WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

Go to our website [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org) and click the media tab. The official video repository is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4sudsJQ2ewoyDmWh5eigPA> page. Hit the subscribe button and click on the notification bell next to it, so that you can get notifications of when videos are made available.

### **Bible Studies**

Check our website under the Media tab for Bible studies that you can do on your own. The topics so far are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, Baptism Q & A, Church and Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, Discussing Homosexuality, End of the World, God's Will in the Lives of His People, Haggai, Having the Right Attitude, Heaven, The Justice of God, Justification and Sanctification, Islam, Live By the Spirit, Malachi, Meditation, Philemon, Purses, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, Word Dwellers, and more to come!

## Your Pastors' Ponderings

This is the most unusual newsletter I have written. There is no Greeter List. There is no Acolyte Schedule. There is no calendar of activities at all. There is nothing at this point that I can encourage you to be part of personally though we have some ideas for Easter Sunday.

But then again, this is the most unusual time that I have ever experienced, not only in 30 years of ministry, but in (soon to be) 56 years of living! I come to church for a service with no thought of worship attendance. I'm not concerned about how many bulletins I need to print. But it is a strange feeling to preach to and lead worship for a whole lot of empty pews.

The personal visits that I enjoy having with you in the hospital, at the nursing home or in your homes are now replaced with phone calls and emails as my way of keeping in contact with you. I long to see you face-to-face once again!

The school building is relatively empty and quiet compared to the normal activity of this time of the year. Our teachers have been in their classrooms working on assignments to give, homework to grade and developing ways to hold video sessions with their home-bound students. They, too, look forward to having their students back in their classrooms.

I am convinced that God has a plan and a purpose in allowing this pandemic to take place. I preaching to myself here as much as I am speaking to you. Perhaps we needed this wake-up call to rouse our souls out of a spiritual sleep lulled into that slumber by the songs of sin that the world around us sings. The sports that we have allowed to control our lives have ceased. The money that we were counting on now counts for a lot less. The work that took so much of our time and energy is no longer the same or even available to many of us.

What good can come from all this? Settling in place gives us the chance to reconnect with those closest to us, our near and dear family members. Having limitations on our movements away from home reminds us to talk to those who live next door to us. The virus that targets our senior citizens especially moves us to check more often on the older adults in our families and communities. Hopefully, this time we have to spend apart from one another in worship will renew our desire to be join in worship when we again have that opportunity.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

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God's people have a calm and a peace in our lives to help us through the coronavirus shut down. Paul reminds

us: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." The media is one source that can cause some anxiety and even fear when it sensationalizes what is happening in our lives. As long as we rely on our Savior, we can avoid some of the uncertainty the coronavirus has brought into our lives. We have been through other pandemics in the past.

We have been through the threats of war in our lifetime. I remember the polio shots we had to have in the 1950's to keep from getting polio. I remember that in grade school we were taught to hide under the desk during the Cuban Missile Crisis of the 1960's. In the 1970's I was glad when President Nixon ended the draft and brought an end to the Vietnam Crisis that plagued my generation for over fifteen years.

We have One who walks with us each day. Jesus is the one who calms our fears and our anxieties. He is the One who lives with us through Baptism. He has made us into a new creation that God has given us to each other to be a calm and regulated person to others as we share God's peace and comfort in times of stress and chaos.

As we respect others' feelings, God uses us to share His healing peace. As we share accurate information with others and saving information from God's Word, we are helping our neighbor become calm and relaxing their traumatic experience. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"

We need to remember that we are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Paul tells us: "the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." As we worship our Savior through reading the Bible while we are at home, or by listening to our service being streamed over the internet, or by listening to worship on the radio/television - we are making a connection with each other. A connection through Christ, the connection of being brothers and sisters in Christ, a connection to strengthen each other and help each other calm and destress from our daily earthly lives.

When we share with each other the Hope that is in Christ Jesus, the Hope of forgiveness of sins. then we can begin to live our lives sharing Christ and His calm, His peace, His love and forgiveness, and His Hope with the world. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*Your brother in Christ, Rev. Russell Koen*

## **What Is A Steward?** *From LCMS Stewardship*

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel”

(1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you’re giving when you’re giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

## **The Prayer Chain**

Our Prayer Chain Coordinator is Vickie Heller. We thank her for agreeing to this service. If you would like to serve as part of the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please call Vickie at 618/521-7417. Please call the church office if you would like to add someone to our worship prayers. *Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

## **Sunday School Lessons**

There is no Sunday School while elementary schools are out of session. To use the weekly materials at home, parents can go to [www.cph.org/enduringfaith](http://www.cph.org/enduringfaith). The login is [office@stjohnsredbud.org](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org) and the password is welcome. We are in Unit 3.

***In the Cross of Christ I Glory!***

### *From the Principal's Pen*

Coronavirus has really hit home! A month ago we heard about it but for the most part this virus was half way around the world. Now we are faced with the same restrictions and we are not used to this! Having school being cancelled for March 17-March 30 was unprecedented but we could see an end in sight. Then we had the April 8 date and now the April 30 date for social distancing has been given. No one knows how long we will be separated. This is so unlike our normal busy lives!

The one constant is that God is always with us. We can still pray for health and safety, read the Bible and devotional materials, pray for others, and sing some of our favorite hymns. Attending church looks different but I am thankful Eric and Jennifer Fritsche have live streamed the services for us to participate and hear our messages.

Our normal school activities have come to an abrupt halt! However, we did have some exciting news about our boys' basketball team taking 7<sup>th</sup> place in the Lutheran Sports Association tournament held March 6-8. This is the best our team has ever done! We are proud of their accomplishments. Chase Lucht was chosen to the All-Tournament team. We are proud of him also.

Math-a-thon books were given to the teachers for those who asked for some. Donations are appreciated as St. Jude Children's Hospital called to ask how our drive was going. They understand that this is a difficult time for many but any support is appreciated.

Our dinner auction is postponed to May 9. There is a possibility that this may not happen then either with all other restrictions being mandated. We will have to keep you posted. So many things are uncertain at this time.

I received information that all our plans for our Washington DC trip could not take place for our original dates, April 25-May 2. We are looking into going in June but as I hear our restriction dates being pushed back, we may have to look at this again. Even Confirmation and Graduation dates cannot be set at this time.

I appreciate everything my teachers have done to keep our students busy with learning materials. We want our students to be lifelong learners and to not stop learning because of the virus. Keep reading every day, do math, complete science experiments, take a nature walk, get outside for fresh air and exercise and have fun learning in a slightly different way. It is a great time for families to learn to work together, cook together, help with household chores and enjoy each other's company with board games and puzzles. We are all in this together and we pray all stay well and healthy. For those who are able, help your

neighbor, friends or relatives get through this time, we know that it too shall pass.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.” John 14:1 *God's blessings to all of you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider*



*On March 7 St. John's members joined over a thousand others from the St. Louis area to march in support of life.*

*They began at the Planned Parenthood Center in the Central West End and walked four miles to the Gateway Arch. Pictured left to right are Dylan Roscow, Jennifer Roscow, LCMS President Matthew Harrison, Rebekah Liefer, Brian Liefer, Christine Liefer, Mike DeRousse, Katie Harms, Ben DeRousse, Susie Harms, Terry Harms, Annelise Quinn and Lisa Quinn.*

### ***Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!***



*On March 8 Jay Zemke, CEO and President of Lutheran Braille Workers visited St. John's. He presented a plaque of appreciation to some of our members who work at the Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin. Pictured from left to right are Carl Zschiegner, Marie Voges, Pat Malik, Mr. Zemke, Mary Ann Wegener, Dorothy Papenberg, Neva Liefer, and Flo Zschiegner.*





*Let us pray that we get to gather back here again soon.  
I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the  
house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1*

### **We Bid a Fond Farewell**

March 2 Transfer out of Amy (Koester) Zeller to Our  
Shepherd Lutheran Church in Avo, Indiana

### **Welcome to Our Family of Faith**

March 2 Transfer in of Dorothy Byers from Immanuel  
Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Illinois  
March 8 Baptism of Harper Jean Kennedy

### **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. Mite Boxes are on table in narthex. Place your contributions in the large LWML Mite Box.

### **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 (new code) to the number 81010. Please contact our office at 282-2394 with your questions.

### **Do You Believe This? The "Easter Effect"**

This past month we lost Rev. Herbert Mueller Jr. following an extended battle with brain cancer. He and his wife Faith were members here at St. John's in the past. He served as our Southern Illinois District President for 16 years and as the LCMS First- Vice-President for nine years before retiring last summer.

I last had the chance to visit with him on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He had great plans for his retirement years. One part of those plans was to write a book based on the following information he emailed to me on January 6<sup>th</sup>. We had invited him and were looking forward to having him speak at our Men's Club Valentine's Dinner on February 13 but by then his medical situation had deteriorated. I summarized this article for our opening devotion that evening. Now I share with you what he sent to me.

Perhaps you have noticed, as I have, that, as the Christian celebration of Easter approaches, there often appear in the secular media (e.g. TIME, Newsweek, CNN, the History Channel) articles or programs designed to provide some kind of alternative explanation for the resurrection of Jesus. The motive often seems to be to attempt a naturalistic means of explaining away the miracle. The assumptions of our scientific age cannot allow for the miraculous, so we "have to" find some other means of explaining what happened. So, when I came across an article by the Roman Catholic scholar, George Weigel, entitled "The Easter Effect," appearing in the Weekend edition of the *Wall Street Journal* (March 31-April 1, 2018 – Easter Weekend, in fact!), my initial reaction was on the order of "here we go again!" But on reading the actual article, I was more than pleasantly surprised. The "Easter Effect" is Weigel's term for the effect the resurrection of Jesus had on the initial followers of Jesus and the early church. Weigel makes the case that what actually happened in the first 100 years or so after the crucifixion of Jesus cannot adequately be explained if Jesus did not truly rise bodily from the grave and actually appear to the disciples physically alive again in his body. An apparition or some kind of "spiritual resurrection" will not do. It was a bodily resurrection that produced this "Easter Effect."

What does he mean? Weigel opens his essay with the thought that, pious tradition aside, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great was in reality making a shrewd political decision when, after winning the undisputed leadership of the Roman Empire at the Battle of the Milvan Bridge in 312 AD, he promulgated the Edict of Milan which in 313 AD ended legal sanctions on the public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. In essence,

Weigel says, Constantine was joining the winning side. “By the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, Christians likely counted for between a quarter and a half of the population of the Roman Empire, and their exponential growth seemed likely to continue.” How did this happen? How did a rag tag bunch of nobodies from the eastern edge of the Mediterranean world, heretofore often persecuted, become such a dominant force in just 250 years? Certainly Christians modeled a nobler way of life, “Bearing one another’s burdens, “this in stark contrast to the violence of their pagan surroundings. There was the compelling witness of the martyrs as well as the preaching of the cross and resurrection of Jesus. More than that, in an age of plagues, Weigel writes, “the readiness of Christians to care for all the sick, not just their own, was a factor” in the growth of the church. Christians had larger families because of their prohibition of abortion and infanticide. But how did this modelling of an alternative lifestyle get started in the first place? What happened to those early followers of Jesus after He was crucified? What happened to them is what Weigel terms “The Easter Effect.” There is no accounting, he says, “for the rise of Christianity without weighing the revolutionary effect on those nobodies of what they called ‘The Resurrection’: their encounter with the one whom they embraced as the Risen Lord, whom they first knew as the itinerant Jewish rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth, and who died an agonizing and shameful death on a Roman cross outside Jerusalem. Why were they Christian? Their answer was simple – “because Jesus rose from the dead” The changes in the lives of the first Christians were truly revolutionary for these first century believers, many of whom were of a thoroughly Jewish background. The resurrection of Jesus turned upside down both the rhythm of time for them and the way they thought about worship. “For the Jewish men and women who were the first members of the Jesus movement, nothing was more sacrosanct than the Sabbath, the seventh day of rest and worship. The Sabbath was enshrined in creation, for God Himself had rested on the seventh day. The Sabbath’s importance as a key behavioral marker of the people of God had been reaffirmed in the Ten Commandments. Yet these first Christians, all Jews, quickly fixed Sunday as the “Lord’s Day.” Because Easter had been a Sunday. This was a far more comprehensive change than say changing one’s tennis date from Tuesday to Wednesday. This involved a change at a fundamental layer of reality for them. Sunday became “the Lord’s Day” Sunday became the Lord’s day because it was seen as the first day of the new creation.

How could they do this? Because Sunday was the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Such a change in religious practice and sentiment is incomprehensible without something as dramatic as a true encounter with the Risen Lord. Finally, what moved Christians to allow themselves under persecution to be marched off to execution? Delusion? Denial? No, it had to have been what Weigel calls “The Easter Effect.” In other words, they were fully convinced not only that Jesus had risen from the dead, but that they would also rise. It was “the joy of people who had become convinced that they were witnesses to something inexplicable but still true. Something that gave a super abundance of meaning to life and that erased the fear of death. Something that had to be shared. Something with which to change the world.” In other words, what actually did take place in the early growth of the church could not have happened without a true bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

How may we summarize this “Easter Effect”? Absent a bodily resurrection of Jesus it is inconceivable that the same disciples who ran away from Jesus the night he was arrested and put on trial and who (when confronted by a slave girl) denied him with an oath, would become bold proclaimers of Christ crucified and raised from the dead. Without the bodily resurrection of Jesus it is impossible to see how they would so soon confess Jesus Christ as Lord. It is inconceivable to see how the early church survived persecution. Again, without a bodily resurrection there is no way a man who had suffered the ignominious public death on a cross could be hailed as the son of God. That’s why, should the early Christians have been asked how could you ever think Jesus is the Son of God they would answer: because Jesus was bodily raised from the dead. We saw him we retouched him with spoke with him we know it really happened because we were there. It is as the “beloved disciple” would later write:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—<sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:1-3)

When the early Christians gathered for worship they believed the risen Lord as a bridge between divine and human worlds, as if in worship Christians stepped into a liminal space between heaven and earth. They did not see

themselves primarily as consumers who attended worship to hear a good sermon and sing a few familiar songs but as beholders of the unspeakable glory of God. Worship not only ushered them into the very presence of God but also prepared them to return to the ordinary life of market, home, and neighborhood as disciples of Jesus. All this because the risen and living Lord Jesus was present in their midst bodily raised from the dead. How can you believe this? They would answer we saw him we touched him we spoke with him he spoke with us he is alive.

Do *you* believe this? The question intrudes itself again. Dead people do not normally just get up and walk around. How can we believe this? It is not simply an idle question. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of everything it means to be a Christian. Indeed, all of this can be very personal!

### **Set Up Direct Payments Thru ACH**

Routine payments to St. John's can be made by direct electronic withdrawal for offerings, school lunches, preschool tuition, and daycare securely from the bank account you designate at either bi-weekly or monthly intervals. Fill out a form in the school office and select each payment account you want automatically withdrawn. It is free. You can make changes or cancel any time. If there are insufficient funds in the account at the time of payment, no funds will be withdrawn. You will be notified. We hope this option offers convenience to users and greater efficiency for our funding. If you feel more comfortable making payments by cash/check, please do!

### **ELDER ZONES FOR 2020:**

(Chairman, Stuart Langrehr)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins-  
Elder Eric Fritsche (618/410-5989)

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 David Reinhardt (618/967-7967)

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 Kirk Liefer (618/559-7950)

### **Singing With the Lutherans**

Some humor to lighten the darkness of these difficult days courtesy of author and radio host Garrison Keillor:

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard: 1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. 2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas. 3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there. 4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins. 5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate. 6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited. 7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace. 8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament. 9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LC-MS groom make for a mixed marriage. (For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCA is Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and LC-MS is Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.) 10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall. 11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church. 12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual. 13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add a little too much color. 14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.



## **Christ Our Savior LHS Mission Trip**

*By Annelise Quinn*

Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School students went on their mission trip this past month to help out at a camp for at-risk youth and to weed a field for a food bank. The first project was at the Camp of the Hills in Burnet County, Texas. The group of eleven students and two chaperones was tasked with making raised garden beds.

Later in the trip, the group traveled to San Antonio and helped in an onion field run by a local food bank. They helped weed the field with other volunteers. We later found out that the staff there was expecting around 100 volunteers that day, however many groups rescheduled.

Our group spent one day going on the Riverwalk and sightseeing in San Antonio before making a brief stop in Galveston and then heading home. It was nice to see the direct impact of our work since we knew that it was going to help and bring joy to others. We got to meet many new people on the trip and got to learn how they were helping their local community.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter School Awards**

Kindergarten: Perfect School Attendance- Cassidy Palm, Kelly Pollard & Aubrey Valleroy. Perfect Church Attendance- Haydn Albert, Jordyn DeWilde & Evlyn Heck. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Jordyn DeWilde & Evlyn Heck.

First Grade: Perfect School Attendance- Maverick Cowell, Kenadee Crafton, Maybre Falkenhain, Sydney Krick, Lucy Kuehn. Perfect Church Attendance- Aiden Arbeiter, Ella Birch, Maverick Cowell, Maybre Falkenhain, Grant Florreich, Lucy Kuehn & Holden Wagner. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Aiden Arbeiter, Ella Birch, Maverick Cowell, Sydney Krick & Lauren Mehring.

Second Grade: Perfect School Attendance- Annie Buchheit, Aubrey Kiefer, Jozlynn Palm, Max Voss & Athena Wolfmeier. Perfect Church Attendance- Colton Albert, Henry Sachtleben & Sophia Zeiger. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Henry Sachtleben.

Third Grade: Perfect School Attendance- Ella Cowell & Brook Wolter. Perfect Church Attendance- Jack Sachtleben. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Jack Sachtleben.

Fourth Grade: Perfect School Attendance- Joey Biffar, Emily Farmer, Brian Liefer, Addy Schloemann & Norah Wagner. Perfect Church Attendance- Mallory Arbeiter, Cason Birch, Louis DeWilde, Brian Liefer, Lilly Meyer & Norah Wagner. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Mallory Arbeiter, Brian Meyer, Lilly Meyer

& Norah Wagner. Honors- Emily Farmer, Molly Kuehn & Brian Liefer. High Honors- Joey Biffar, Cason Birch & Karleigh Liefer. Highest Honors- Mallory Arbeiter, Braylin Eggemeyer, Lilly Meyer, Addy Schloemann & Norah Wagner.

Fifth Grade/Letcher: Perfect School Attendance- Kendall Crafton, Shamus Korves, Kinley Macbeth, Olivia Valleroy & Ty Voss. Perfect Church Attendance- Alan Wolter. Honors- Kendall Crafton, Amelia Guebert, Liam Quintin & Blayton Sutton. High Honors- Kinley Macbeth, Lucas McCarthy, Jenna Whelan & Julia Whelan. Highest Honors- Landon Ruebusch.

Fifth Grade/Nebel- Perfect School Attendance- Adeline Buchheit, Olivia Candler, Kate Krack, Addelyn Rahn & Colby Voss. Honors- Connor Bumann, Annika Herriman, Lilly Minemann, Colby Voss & Barrett Wagner. High Honors- Kate Krack & Addelyn Rahn. Highest Honors- Adeline Buchheit & Brodie Stenzel.

Sixth Grade- Perfect School Attendance- Ava Clifford, Densil Cogar, Luke Kennedy, Lily Kent, Emma Kiefer, Kadin Liefer, Luke Quintin, Kerrigan Zeiger. Honors- Lily Kent, Morgan Kent, Addie Meyer, Luke Quintin & Kerrigan Zeiger. High Honors- Jack Crafton. Highest Honors- Emma Kiefer, Addy Piel, Alexa Wegener & Evan Kiefer.

Seventh Grade- Perfect School Attendance- Jakob Biffar, Emme Deterding, Blake Henry, Eva Kinney, Grant Krack, Christine Liefer, MaKayla Liefer, Samuel Roscow & Connor Jordan. Perfect Church Attendance- Christine Liefer, MaKayla Liefer, Samuel Roscow & Connor Jordan. Perfect Sunday School Attendance- Samuel Roscow & Connor Jordan. Honors- Cadin Voss, MaKayla Liefer, Summer Luttmann & Lucas Schwartzkopf. High Honors- Gavin Baldwin, Crewe Wagner, Derek Whelan, Taylor Guebert, Grant Krack, Christine Liefer, Karson Liefer, Tori Muench & Hailey Proctor. Highest Honors- Jakob Biffar, Chloe Cowell, Emme Deterding, Blake Henry, Sofia Jones, Eva Kinney, Samuel Roscow & Daniel Stapleton.

Eighth Grade- Perfect School Attendance- Lucas Guebert, Chase Lucht, Josie Meyer, Isaac Moll, Abigail Vallett, Trace Wagner & Sam Wright. Honors- Byron Schlueter. High Honors- Claire Diewald, Cash Langrehr, Josie Meyer, Isaac Moll, Dustin Salger, Abigail Vallett, Trace Wagner & Ben Whelan. Highest Honors- Melayna Crafton, Addi Dilley, Lucas Guebert, Chase Lucht, Ryker Papenberg & Olivia Schluter.