

# *The Epistle*

**AUGUST 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](mailto:office@stjohnsredbud.org)**

**[www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://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*

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

*Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal*

*Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education*

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

### **“Thank God for Your Job”**

*The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of  
the diligent are fully satisfied.* Proverbs 13:4

Author and motivational speaker Charlie ‘Tremendous’ Jones tells the story of a man who dreamed he had inherited a million dollars. In the dream he tried to take a shower, but the shower wouldn’t work. He tried to shave, but his shaver wouldn’t shave. He tried to make breakfast, but the coffee wouldn’t perk and the toaster wouldn’t toast. He went to get a newspaper, but the newspaper box was empty. He went to catch the bus to work, but the bus didn’t come. Finally, after waiting an hour, he asked somebody, ‘What’s going on here?’ They replied, ‘Haven’t you heard? Everybody has inherited a million dollars and nobody’s working anymore.’

Suddenly the man woke up, discovered that it was all a dream, and said, ‘Thank God!’ So he went and had a tremendous shower, a tremendous shave, a tremendous cup of coffee, and a tremendous piece of toast while he was reading a tremendous newspaper. Finally, he caught a tremendous bus to a tremendous job!

Thank God today for the job He has given you and put your very best into it. Your position and salary would most

likely have been a dream-come-true for some of your ancestors. You may not be called to ‘the ministry’ per se, but if your job affords you the privilege of being a solution to somebody’s problem and offers you the dignity of making a difference in life, be grateful. Imagine what your life would be like without it! *‘Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.’*

Prayer- Heavenly Father, I thank You for allowing me to have the job that I have. Help me to do it with joy and appreciation for Your glory and in service to others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Your Pastor’s Ponderings**

A simple shift in an apostrophe. You may not have noticed this in the line above. For years the apostrophe was after the letter “s” indicating that more than one pastor was writing in this section. Now with Pastor Koen’s retirement the apostrophe moves before the letter “s”.

“What does this mean?” is the familiar question from Luther’s Small Catechism and an appropriate one for this time in our congregation’s life. For twenty years St. John’s has planned its ministry with the intention of having two full-time pastors on staff. Now we are back to having just one. What might change?

While I had suggested a scale of possibilities to our Board of Elders back in January, at first I thought that we would make no staffing changes for the immediate future and just see how things would turn out for the rest of this calendar year. But two different things presented themselves for our consideration.

One of my proposals to our Board of Elders was the creation of a Director of Christian Education position. This person would be the staff person responsible for all the Christian education not directly related to our day school as well as assisting me with worship in some ways. One of our teachers, Mr. Becker, expressed an interest in taking such a position. His article is later in this newsletter.

Another one of my proposals was to arrange with a pastor for part-time assistance in the areas of preaching and visitation. I knew that Rev. Clifford Adair, a Baldwin native and former district pastor, planned to retire and move back home sometime in the near future. Then I found out it was this summer! I contacted him right away to see if he would be interested in such a position. He said that he was. I worked up a job description that our Board of Elders approved and that he accepted. He will preach twenty times a year for us and split homebound and nursing home visits with me as well as being on call for hospital visits and emergencies when I am out of town.

I see many advantages to these simple changes. One is that we will have two excellent people serving us in these positions. Secondly, there is the convenience of these moves for our congregation with no call lists needed, no call committee meetings held and no calling process necessary. Thirdly, there is the flexibility this gives us. While this year we should not need an extra teacher for a classroom as we have had the previous six years, if we have that need again next year we could make that move in house if we wanted. Also, should we decide that a second full-time pastor is required, we then could go in that direction. Finally, we will notice a savings to our budget that will give us a chance to get a better handle on our finances over the next twelve months.

What else does this mean? I will do the majority of the preaching now. I will be the one that you will contact for your pastoral care needs. That is what I am called by God to do and here for your service. I will continue to be happy and blessed to provide for you in this way. I will look for ways to be an more effective steward of my ministry time, perhaps waiting for you to come home from an out-of-town (non-emergency) hospital stay and visiting you once you get back here to Red Bud.

You can help me out in this regard. Please keep in contact with me about how you are doing and any life changes you are experiencing. Let me know how I can serve you. While I would like to be in regular contact with all our members as much as possible, my experience trying to do so during the recent shutdown showed me the amount of time that takes. Your one phone call, text or email to me will help me do my job for you.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

### **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!

### **August Servers**

Flowers: Lisa Quinn and Jennifer Roscow  
Paraments: Irma Birkner  
Communion cloths: Lynn Langrehr



*Pastor Russell Koen after his last Sunday service with us on July 26. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."*

### **Welcome to our Family of Faith**

July 25 Baptisms of Lillian Mae Guebert  
and Eve Amelia Guebert  
Twin daughters of Adam and Lisa (Klinger) Guebert

### **The Prayer Chain**

Our Prayer Chain Coordinator is Vickie Heller. We thank her for this service. If you would like to be 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*

***Welcome Back to School!***

### **From Your Director of Christian Education**

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 *And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?* (ESV)

I have been privileged to serve God for my entire LCMS ministry of 26 years in many and various positions. When I attended college at Concordia University in River Forest, I originally was enrolled in the DCE program with elementary teaching certification emphasis. I have taught grades K-8 various subjects and have been a homeroom teacher for several grades. I have also taught adult confirmation classes, 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation, Bible classes for parents, Sunday School, VBS, and helped or led youth groups. I have served in all three Illinois districts with my time here in Southern Illinois being the longest at 22 years.

With the retirement of Pastor Koen, it was the decision of the Boards of Elders and Parish Education to seek a DCE to assist in the educational ministry here at St. John's rather than calling another pastor.

What is a DCE? On its Web site, Concordia University in Texas ([www.concordia.edu](http://www.concordia.edu)) offers a helpful description of a DCE. Here is an abbreviated version:

A Director of Christian Education (DCE) is a synodically certified, called, and commissioned life-span educational leader prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting. In this setting, a DCE is:

- called minister of the Gospel;
- a trained parish-education specialist;
- a team minister who works with the pastor, staff, and lay leaders of the congregation;
- a teacher of the faith; and
- a trainer of the laity for service.

In my future Epistle articles, I will share with you in this new ministry opportunity. Thanks be to God for His divine goodness!  
*Mr. Bill Becker*

### **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.

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

I am happy to say that we will be starting in-school instruction on August 17<sup>th</sup>!! I pray our situation does not change before this time as I know my teachers are happy to be making plans for our students to return! We have missed everyone and look forward to seeing you again!

School will look different this year. I have shared our reopening plan with parents and staff. Key items will be that we will have in school instruction five days a week, students will wear a mask in the building and they can be removed outside, temperatures will be taken before students are allowed into the building, our dismissal time will be 1:45 p.m. each day, we will practice social distancing as much as possible staying six feet apart and not have groups of more than 50 in an inside space, and we will wash hands and sanitize throughout the day. A complete document is available for anyone who would like to see one in the office. While school will seem different, I think we will adjust and be happy to be together, safely!

I give many thanks to all the helping hands who completed the ceiling replacement project in grades 3-5 and the main hallway. New lights, fans and tiles make all the spaces bright and inviting! The drainage for the kitchen/water fountain project will soon be complete and the floor tiles will be laid. The Daycare wing has also been painted and looks wonderful. When I give tours for parents and new students, I always receive positive complements on the building and how nice it looks. Many thanks to those who support the PTL auctions and fundraisers, private donations and offerings of time to make our school look so good by supporting these improvements!

With all the neighboring local school plans being announced, I have had many calls with possible new enrollments for our school. Many of these calls are because our parents have spoken positively about our school to these families. I feel this is the mission of our school and welcome the new students and families. A complete list will be given in September with class sizes and names. Sharing the good news of the Gospel will be a welcome addition for these students.

Our main staffing changes will be that Mr. Becker will become our Director of Christian Education, Cindy Nebel will teach 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mrs. Patty Schnepel will be the aide to Kindergarten and Lara Vause will continue to be our Resource teacher. Mr. Becker will be able to help both at school and Pastor Nebel with Bible classes and services. Yes, changes are happening! I am happy we can all work together to make the best use of time and talents of our staff.

We ask for prayers as the new school year begins. We pray for health and safety in all that we do. We pray that the COVID-19 pandemic is soon over.

*God's blessings to you, Deitt Schneider*

Registration/Book Fees- \$450 per student; \$375 per student for 3 or more children.

Member tuition- Regular and proportionate worship offerings; Non-Member tuition- \$2500/year

Athletics- \$30 per sport/child not over \$60 per child

Preschool Registration- \$45 and Tuition- 3-year old \$100/month \$100 x 9 months \$900/year; 4-year old \$120/month \$120 x 9 months \$1080/year

Lunch- Daycare-2<sup>nd</sup> grade: \$2.40 (about \$48/month)

3rd-8th grade: \$2.50 or approx. \$50/month

Adult: \$2.90 or approx. \$58/month

Milk- \$0.45 per carton or approx. \$9/month

### **Evening Guild News**

The LWML-SID Board of Directors met on July 16 and voted to go to an all virtual convention. The theme **20/20 Vision: All Eyes on Jesus** will remain the same. With this decision to hold a virtual convention, all delegates will receive an envelope around August 20 which will include a convention manual, instructions for the voting process, ballots, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the ballots. Individuals and groups are encouraged to consider a convention offering which would normally have been collected at the convention for District Mites for the 2020-2022 biennium. The monetary ingathering for the Metro-East Lutheran High School Scholarship Fund is also still encouraged. Any items for the Mite Market can be kept and brought to the District Spring Retreat where they can then be sold for Mites.

All elements of the virtual convention will be posted at [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org) on October 1. You will be able to view these clips at your leisure. The worship service, welcome, President's address and the final voting reports from the nominating committee, grant committee, and structure committee will be recorded on September 26 at St. Paul in Columbia. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, will have a presentation along with three of our past mite recipients from the 2018-2020 biennium. There will also be a video sharing what our national LWML President, Debbie Larson and the Executive Board of Directors have been working on, as well. The Evening Guild delegates are Vickie Heller and Mary Ann Wegener.

Lutheran World Relief Quilt Day is August 13. Special thanks to the ladies who have been making quilt tops the last several months. Because these quilts have to

be ready by October, we are going to have a quilt tying day on Thursday, August 13. We will assemble the quilts from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. the tying will begin. We could use lots of help. The Fellowship Hall can accommodate a lot of quilters without getting too close to each other. If you are uncomfortable helping in a group, the quilts could be tied at home.

Guest Night for September is being planned to accommodate a fun night for all women of St. John's on Tuesday, September 15 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar as we get ready to gather together, and still safely social distance.

Quilting continues! The ladies meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join them for some social interaction at a distance across a quilt!

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

Winston Churchill reportedly said, "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?" to "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

### Lilyfields Music CDs Available

St. John's member Joan Voges is offering the latest, and last, music CD from her Lilyfields Collection to us for a donation to our school's ministry. "Peter's Song" tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of His disciple Peter. The seven tracks of this CD include beautiful narrations from the late Chris Bergmann along with Joan's texts and tunes. Please see Joan after worship today to pick up a copy of this compact disc.

### DANKE SCHOEN! (aka Thank you!)

"A big thank you to all of you who remembered me with your cards, gifts and best wishes on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. God has been very good to me these 90 years. I was blessed with wonderful parents, T.J. and Bertha Koch; 11 siblings; a good, kind and loving husband Ron (now sainted); and our wonderful and caring children and their spouses; super grandchildren and their spouses, and our great-grandchildren (3 and counting). Last, but not least, is my wonderful church family of fellow Christians here at St. John's. God is very good. Thank you, Lord, and thank all of you. God bless all of you!" *Eunice Snyder*

### College Campus Ministries

Recent data from our Synod's Youth Ministry Office confirms that we lose many young people when they move away from home for college. Lutheran Student Ministry aims to provide opportunities for Bible study and pastoral care to students during this time of transition. Our district has campus ministries at both SIU campuses. Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Missouri is organizing a campus ministry known as the Lutheran Student Union at nearby Lindenwood University with Vicar Kurt Hellweg. Our college-student members are invited to call our office for help in connecting with a Lutheran campus ministry for the college they will be attending.

### 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!

### Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School teachers will meet on Monday, August 10, at 7 p.m. in the school library to plan Rally Day activities and the new year of Christian education in our Sunday School. The first Sunday for class lessons is August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 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)

### Acolyte Schedule

Sat. August 1	5 p.m. Cadin Voss
Sun. August 2	8 a.m. Austin Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Claire Diewald*
Sat. August 8	5 p.m. Blake Henry
Sun. August 9	8 a.m. Jacob Kuehner* 10:30 a.m. Karson Liefer
Sat. August 15	5 p.m. Olivia Schluter*
Sun. August 16	8 a.m. Melayna Crafton* 10:30 a.m. Trace Wagner*
Sat. August 22	5 p.m. Chase Lucht*
Sun. August 23	8 a.m. Dylan Minemann* 10:30 a.m. Dustin Salger*
Sat. August 29	5 p.m. Sam Wright*
Sun. August 30	8 a.m. Connor Jordan 10:30 a.m. Isaac Moll*

\*Indicates last time to serve as an acolyte

## August Church Calendar

(without any school sports included)

Friday, July 31- *Pastor Koen's retirement date*

Saturday, August 1- *Pastor Nebel on vacation*

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

SUNDAY, August 2-

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

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

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Noon Senior Youth Gathering in the church basement

Monday, August 3-

9:00 a.m. Faculty meeting

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting

Tuesday, August 4-

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

6:30 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting

Wednesday, August 5-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Thursday, August 6-

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)

9:00 a.m. Faculty meeting in the school library

Saturday, August 8-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, August 9-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

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

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

Monday, August 10-

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

7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 11-

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

Wednesday, August 12-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Thursday, August 13- *Teacher Institute Day*

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)

9:00 a.m. Quilt Tying Day in the Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. Men's Club Meal and Meeting at church

Friday, August 14- *Teacher Institute Day*

Saturday, August 15-

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

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

SUNDAY, August 16-

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

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

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

Monday, August 17- *First Day of School!*

Tuesday, August 18-

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

Wednesday, August 19-

8:30 a.m. Opening School Service for Grades 3-8

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Thursday, August 20-

6:30 a.m. (?) Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)

Friday, August 21-

8:30 a.m. Opening School Service for Preschool-2

Saturday, August 22-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, August 23-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Rally Day (?)

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

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

11:00 a.m. 8<sup>th</sup> grade BBQ in the school parking lot

Monday, August 24-

Tuesday, August 25-

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

Wednesday, August 26-

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service (Grades 3-8)

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Thursday, August 27-

6:30 a.m. (?) Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)

4:30 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting

Friday, August 28-

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service (Preschool thru 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lifeline Screening in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 29-

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

SUNDAY, August 30-

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

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible class in the Fellowship Hall (Acts)

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

Monday, August 31-

Tuesday, September 1-

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference

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

Wednesday, September 2-

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service (Grades 3-8)

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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