

# *The Epistle*

## **JULY 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***

#### **“Step Back and See the Bigger Picture”**

*“For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” 1 Corinthians 16:9*

One day the Chamber of Commerce in a small town invited a successful businessman to come and speak. The local economy was bad and they were discouraged, so his job was to motivate them. He took a large piece of white paper and made a red dot in the center of it. ‘What do you see?’ he asked the audience. One person replied, ‘I see a red dot.’ The speaker said, ‘Fine, but what else do you see?’ Others chimed in, ‘A red dot.’ The speaker asked, ‘Don’t you see anything else besides the dot?’ The audience responded with a resounding ‘no!’ The speaker said, ‘You’ve overlooked the most important thing; you’ve missed seeing the sheet of paper!’ Then he went on to explain that in life we are often distracted by small, dot-like failures and experiences. They keep us from seeing the blessings and successes that are more important than the disappointments that try to monopolize our attention and drain our energy.

The Apostle Paul wrote, ‘A great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.’ Opportunity and obstacles – they go together

like macaroni and cheese or fish and chips. Now, Paul didn’t deny the reality of the opposition he faced; he just chose to focus on the opportunity it presented. A poet once wrote, ‘Two men looked through prison bars. One saw mud, the other stars.’ What are you looking at? Are you so preoccupied with what *is* that you’ve lost sight of what *can* be? If so, you need to step back and ask God to help you see the bigger picture.

Prayer- Heavenly Father, help me to see the bigger positive picture in my life instead of all those little red dots that keep me from seeing the opportunities in life that You place before me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Your Pastors’ Ponderings**

In the past, the members of St John’s have experienced their pastors leaving to serve in other churches, or fallen asleep in Jesus while serving this congregation. But now for the first time you will experience one of your pastors retiring. But what does it mean to retire? In the secular world it means the employee will no longer work for the company that “hired” them. They will no longer “clock in” and work for a specified number of hours each day.

The ministry is different from the secular world. When a congregation wants one of God’s servants to “serve” as their pastor, teacher and other positions, they extend a “Divine Call” to that individual. On December 8, 2001, St. John’s extended that “Divine Call” to me to serve as one of the pastors of the congregation.

As you know, I will retire July 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. The “Call” you extended to me will be fulfilled. The “Official Acts” of: Preaching the Word and Administering the Sacraments will be Pastor Nebel’s responsibility solely. I will remain a member of the congregation. I plan to worship with you as a fellow member of St. John’s when I am able.

I have applied for the Pastor – ‘Emeritus Status’ through the District President as required in the By-Laws of the Synod. That way I will be able to remain on the “Clergy Roster” of the Synod, which will allow me to continue to serve The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

I am not sure what plans God has for my family and me. For now we will stay in Red Bud as members of St. John’s. Lauri will continue working as Director of the Western Egyptian EOC Head Start program. I will spend time serving God wherever He leads me to serve Him.

In Philippians 4:1 Paul says, “Therefore my brothers whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.” May God’s blessings continue to remain with you and strengthen you as you faithfully remain in His Word and Sacraments.

*Your beloved Pastor, Rev. Russell Koen*

Congratulations to Pastor Koen as he completes the active duty part of his pastoral ministry to Christ and His church on earth! Yet, as he mentioned in the above article, there will be plenty of opportunities for him to continue to serve congregations as a guest preacher or even a vacancy pastor. He will be very valuable in filling this need for congregations.

Pastor Koen served you and other congregation for 37 years. He and I have served you together here at St. John's for the last 13 years. I thank him for his collegiality, insights, support and personal loyalty. I say to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." I hope that you will take the opportunity during this month to share this same thought with him and to thank him for his dedicated pastoral service in our Lord's name.

Our Board of Elders is planning a retirement reception for him but is waiting until the conditions of our times allow us to hold a proper social gathering to honor him.

I have been extended a Divine Call to serve as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I ask for your prayers and invite your input as I prayerfully consider my service to you here at St. John's and this possible ministry at Trinity.

*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!

### **Summer Singers**

Do you like to sing? For the summer months I'm inviting anyone who's interested to take part in our "Summer Singers" group! You do not have to be a choir member to participate! We will sing for approximately 3-5 worship services (which will be scheduled depending on who can come sing) with practice before the service. The songs we sing will be fairly simple, most likely unison, but we can add some part-singing if there is interest. Kids and youth are welcome to come sing too!! Social distancing guidelines will still be followed!! Let me know if you are interested!

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak*

### **Guitar Player(s) Wanted**

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month during the 10:30 service, St. John's has its monthly Alternative Service. This is printed order of worship with a mild blending of Lutheran liturgy with modern music and different instruments. So far, the instruments we have are keyboard, bass guitar, and drums, but we are looking to add a guitar to the mix! We are looking for the following qualifications:

Guitar player must have their own instrument (either acoustic or electric) and be able to bring it to and from church. Instrument must have an appropriate audio hook-up connection in order to be plugged into the church's sound system. Musician can bring their own audio cable if desired, but it is not necessary as the church has some.

Guitar player must be able to play sufficiently by ear or by reading sheet music, a leadsheet, or a guitar chord chart. Guitar player must be able to learn a set-list of (usually) 7 songs per service in 1-2 week timeframe. If the songs take longer to learn (say 3-4 weeks), let me know. I will provide sheet music and audio files in a timely matter so this musician will have time to practice and prepare.

Guitar player must be able to start practice no later than 9:30 a.m. on the day of playing. Practice usually takes 30-45 minutes. The service itself usually runs about an hour (usually no Communion.) These dates are Alternative Services for the rest of 2020: July 19<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Any interest? Please contact Lindsey Hudak!

### **July-August Servers**

Flowers: Lisa Quinn and Jennifer Roscow

Parameters: Irma Birkner

Communion cloths: Lynn Langrehr

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

June 21 Baptism of Henry James Veath

Son of John and Brittany (Salger) Veath

### **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*

***May God Bless America and  
America Bless God!***

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

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- We are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be used into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

Consider your life and what you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. Loving God, His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

### **Evening Guild News**

The Southern Illinois District LWML 2020 Convention is scheduled for September 25-26, at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville. All guest reservations are due August 15<sup>th</sup>. The forms are available at [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org). Mail your forms along with \$30 fee to Marie Voges, registration chairman.

We will again have the Mite Market Booths at convention. Plan ahead this summer for making crafts, home canned goods or anything you want to sell.

Southern Illinois District mite grants have been fulfilled. At convention in September the delegates will vote on the new grant applications for the 2020-2022 year. Your full mite box donations will be needed.

At this time, the convention is still on. If the situation changes in any way, everyone will be notified. No matter what happens, we still need voting delegates, as they will do their voting via mailed paper ballots. Please pray that we will be able to safely meet together in Edwardsville In September. The Summer LWML Quarterly have arrived. You can pick your copy up on the entrance table to the Main Entrance of the school. June issue of the SID Newsletter is on the web site.

Quilting has begun! 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!



### *From the Principal's Pen*

The great news received last week is that we will reopen our school in August! We are so happy to be able to resume in school learning. As you know, changes are going to be made with entering the school, temperatures being taken, social distancing, groups of less than 50 and face masks. The faculty will meet on July 1 to go over the guidelines and make changes to our school day. We are also meeting with the local schools to see what they are doing as well as other Lutheran schools in the district. We will have to make many adjustments but it will be worth having the students back, we missed them so much! More information will be coming your way, we are working out details. I am sorry to say it seems things are still changing hourly, daily and weekly. We will try to do the best possible for all to keep our students, faculty and staff safe! We were able to obtain PPE items from the Randolph Co. Health Department and we are thankful for these to begin our year!

St. John's Lutheran School held its Commencement exercise on Friday, June 5 in an outside service on the St. John's Lutheran Church parking lot. The Class of 2020 had four Valedictorians, Melayna Crafton, Addison Dilley, Chase Lucht and Ryker Papenberg. Addison and Ryker gave the Valedictorians address. The presentation of the class was made by Principal Deitt Schneider and the Board for Parish Education Chairman, Andrew Stellhorn, presented the diplomas and addressed the class. Other awards were announced by Mrs. Schneider and presented by Mr. Stellhorn. Trace Wagner received the Citizenship Award and Claire Diewald received the Scholar Athlete Award. Presidential Academic Awards- Melayna Crafton, Claire Diewald, Addison Dilley, Cash Langrehr, Chase Lucht, Ryker Papenberg, Dustin Salger, Olivia Schluter, Trace Wagner and Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School Scholarships- Melayna Crafton, Addison Dilley, Chase Lucht, Ryker Papenberg. Parents were recognized for years of Parental Support while having their last child at this time graduate. The following is the list of parents, David and Cari Lucht-3 years, Casey and Tracy Vallett-3 years, Doug and Nancy Whelan-7 years, Damon and Tiffany Trost-8 years, Steven and Janet Papenberg- 10 years, Colin and Beth Diewald – 11 year, Chad and Courtney Langrehr- 11 years, James and Jackie Schluter – 11 years, Nathan and Patty Salger – 13 years, Jeremy and Laurie Wright – 15 years, Scott and Terri Dilley – 23 years. The Salutatorian's prayer was given by Olivia Schluter and Trace Wagner. Other graduates were recognized in attendance from grade school, high school and college. The class chose as their class flower-red rose, class verse-Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you,

declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.", class colors-red white and black, class song "In Christ Alone".

Plans are underway for next year. Registration Night is July 8 from 4-7 p.m. You may also come to the school office during regular hours to register. The fees are listed following this article. The theme for next year is, "I Love to Tell the Story..." based on Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." We look forward to our new year in Christ.

*God's blessings to you, Deitt Schneider*

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year is July 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. in the new gym lobby.

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



*Class of 2020 Valedictorians: Ryker Papenberg, Chase Lucht, Addison Dilley, and Melayna Crafton*



*Thank You for Many Years of Parental Support!*



*St. John's Lutheran School Class of 2020 with homeroom teacher Mr. Justin Palm and Principal Deitt Schneider*

**Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 20-24 under the theme of "Rainforest Explorers." It will be a virtual VBS this year for children ages three through the completion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Christy Palm is our director this year. More information will be available in the weekly worship bulletins and in Pastor Nebel's daily email messages.

**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.

**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)

**Acolyte Schedule**

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Sat. July 4   | 5 p.m. Natalie Korando     |
| Sun. July 5   | 8 a.m. Konnor Cartee*      |
|               | 10:30 a.m. Olivia Geraldts |
| Sat. July 11  | 5 p.m. Evan Kiefer         |
| Sun. July 12  | 8 a.m. Maggie Brown*       |
|               | 10:30 a.m. Makayla Liefer  |
| Sat. July 18  | 5 p.m. Taylor Guebert      |
| Sun. July 19  | 8 a.m. Noah Kassing        |
|               | 10:30 a.m. Jack Crafton    |
| Sat. July 25  | 5 p.m. Ryker Papenberg*    |
| Sun. July 26  | 8 a.m. Owen Liefer*        |
|               | 10:30 a.m. Hailey Proctor  |
| Sat. August 1 | 5 p.m. Cadin Voss          |
| Sun. August 2 | 8 a.m. Austin Kiefer       |
|               | 10:30 a.m. Claire Diewald* |

\*Indicates last time to serve as an acolyte

**Voters Assembly Meeting**

We will have a Voters Assembly meeting on Wednesday, July 29 at 7 p.m. This meeting is especially important since we had to cancel the April meeting. Staff changes will be one topic at this meeting. We may meet in the sanctuary to accomplish social distancing concerns.

## July Church Calendar

### Wednesday, July 1-

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, July 2-

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)  
1:15 p.m. Outdoor Communion Service at Garden Place

### Friday, July 3- Office Closed

### Saturday, July 4- Happy Birthday America!

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, July 5-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Acts)  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service

### Monday, July 6-

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting

### Tuesday, July 7-

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

### Wednesday, July 8-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
4-7 p.m. School Registration in new gym lobby  
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Judges)

### Thursday, July 9-

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

### Saturday, July 11-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

### SUNDAY, July 12-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
Noon Senior Youth gathering in the church basement

### Monday, July 13-

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

### Tuesday, July 14-

12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting

### Wednesday, July 15-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Judges)

### Thursday, July 16-

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)  
6:00 p.m. Hudson-Stapleton wedding rehearsal

### Friday, July 17-Pastor Nebel gone through Monday

### Saturday, July 18-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall  
2:00 p.m. Amanda Hudson and Jason Stapleton wedding  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, July 19-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Acts)  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

### Monday-Friday: Virtual Vacation Bible School

### Tuesday, July 21-

12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, July 22-

*Pastor Nebel's 30<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary*

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, July 23-

8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Luke)  
4:30 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting

### Saturday, July 25-

9:00 a.m. Pastor Nebel at SID Board of Directors meeting  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service

### SUNDAY, July 26-

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, July 27- Pastor Nebel on vacation this week

### Tuesday, July 28-

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

### Wednesday, July 29-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
11:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
7:00 p.m. Voters Assembly meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Thursday, July 30-

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

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

### Saturday, August 1-

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

## Quick News Notes

+Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School has extended its Early Registration Discount of \$150 until August 1  
+Concordia Seminary in St. Louis is offering online three-day faculty-led workshops called "Prof Insights" throughout the summer beginning June 15-17. Learn more or register at [www.ce@csl.edu/workshop-series](http://www.ce@csl.edu/workshop-series).