

The Epistle

MAY 2021

**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

Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music

Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal

Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education

Rev. Clifford Adair, Assistant to the Pastor

Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director

From Lutheran Church Charities

"A Peaceful State of Mind"

*And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will
guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Philippians 4:7

The word worry comes from a Greek word meaning 'to divide the mind'. Worry splits you right down the middle; instead of dwelling on God's promises, you dwell on your problems. Worry is like a rocking chair – it gives you something to do but it doesn't get you anywhere. Instead of relieving you of tomorrow's troubles, it robs you of today's strength – and you can't afford to lose your strength. So how can you stop worrying?

The Bible has a two-part answer: God's part, and our part. Our part includes prayer and gratitude: *'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done'* (v. 6). In order to worry less you must pray more, and also remember to express your gratitude. You can go to God confidently for the next thing when you've taken time to thank Him for the last thing. And what's God's part? *'If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep*

your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus' (v. 7). Note the words 'You will experience God's peace'. Imagine having God's peaceful state of mind! Do you think He battles anxiety? Or wrings His hands and asks the angels for antacids? Your problem is no more challenging to God than a twig is to an elephant. He enjoys perfect peace because He enjoys perfect power – and He offers His peace to you. When you do your part through prayer and thanksgiving, you'll have a peaceful state of mind.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, by Your Holy Spirit at work through Your Word of the Holy Bible, help me not to have a mind divided by worry. Instead, move me to trust in You for that peace that only You can provide through Your Son, my Savior Jesus. Amen.

Your Pastor's Ponderings

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 2nd Timothy 4:3-4

This past week I had a couple of conversations on a topic that comes up every so often, the idea that attending Christian worship should be "fun." This way of thinking about worship is problematic for at least two reasons.

First, if we chose the worship that is "fun" for us, who is it that we really are worshipping? If the criterion of a church service that is worthy of my presence is how "fun" it is for me, am I not really worshipping myself? "You shall have no other gods" applies also to the worship of ourselves. Sad to say, there are plenty of places today willing to scratch the itching ears of those whose passion is to have a "fun" worship experience.

But, the objection goes, isn't it good that they are in some type of worship? My reaction to that is this: if my children come to the supper table and turn their noses up at the meat, potatoes and vegetables that we are serving them, I could replace that menu with the cookies, cake and ice cream they want and then console myself with the thought that at least they are eating something. But what will that kind of diet soon do to their bodies? It will not provide the well-balanced nourishment that they need.

If only they were hearing about Jesus in their "fun" worship. But from what I see, the churches of "themselves" that offer the "fun" of a spiritual sugar high in worship are doing so by replacing the nourishment of God's Word, its law and gospel, its sin and grace, its death and resurrection of Jesus, with a feel-good message that turns the focus of the hearers away from Jesus ("we've heard enough about Jesus") and onto themselves, their emotions, their power, and their own holiness ("let's talk about us").

Secondly, from the perspective of parenting, it is a dangerous practice to allow or even encourage our children to make choices for their lives based on what they see as being “fun” for the time being. That is not life in the real world. In fact, most of what we do in life is not going to be in the category of “fun.” Getting up and going to work every day is not what we do for “fun” but it has to be “done” in order to earn a living. Doing the laundry, washing the dishes, mowing the grass, and all the other chores are not “fun” but need to be “done” in order to operate a household. That is mature living in the non-video game world.

What’s more, if we have raised our children to believe that their decisions in life are determined by what is “fun” for them, how are they going to respond as teenagers when offered that first beer, that first joint, that first sexual experience, or that first fast thrill ride in the country? After all, it will be packaged as being “fun.” As parents, our job is to teach them that not everything that is “fun” under the sun is good, right, proper or even safe for them to do.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

April 5 Transfer in of Thomas Mehring from Trinity, Prairie

Ascension Day Holy Communion Services

On Thursday, May 13, the 40th day after Jesus’ resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven with Holy Communion services at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday Morning Studies 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Adult Bible Class meets in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Nebel. We are covering the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in survey form. Participants will receive a binder with handouts to keep. Refreshments are provided.

DCE Bill Becker offers a parents and other adults class in the school library. He continues with a class on “Being Lutheran.” Seminarian Wade Waterstreet is guiding our high school-aged members in a study of the Gospel of Matthew. They meet in Room Two of the Fellowship Hall.

Zoom Bible Class Offering

Seminarian Wade Waterstreet is offering a Zoom Bible Class on Saturdays from 4-4:40 p.m. To be part of “Stump the Seminarian” please send an email to him at waterstreetw@csl.edu and he will send you a Zoom link.

From Your Director of Christian Education

Do you remember as a child chanting the following rhyme on the last day of school?

No more pencils, no more books,
No more teachers’ dirty looks.
Kick the tables, kick the chairs,
Kick the teachers down the stairs!

While I don’t think our students would kick their teachers, the excitement of being out of school for the summer does bring joy to most children. That is until the next day and the kids say, “I’m bored!” The Bible says in Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

Our children have been blessed to be in person for school this year. There are several educational opportunities this summer for the children to also learn more about God and His wonderful creation! Our regular Sunday school program will end on May 23. We will begin hosting summer Sunday school in the main lobby of the school on June 6. Our theme will be “H2 Oh!” We will learn about how God keeps His promises! We will meet from 9:30-10:10 a.m. I will be leading the lessons and activities with help from those wishing to volunteer. Let me know if you are interested in sharing the love of Jesus with the students. The target age group is four to 12 years old.

June 7-11 will be VBS!! Our theme is “God’s Wonder Lab.” Registration will be sent via a Google Link/Form. Plans are in the works for a great week of crafts, games, music, and Bible accounts! Please watch for more information in the middle of May. Again, volunteer opportunities are available! On July 12-16 I will host a Lego/Stem camp for those students entering third-seventh grades. More information will be available in June.

I’ve forgotten May! Well, no I haven’t. I just wanted you to keep reading. On May 2 Mr. Matt Bierman from our Southern Illinois Lutheran Emergency Response Team will be present at Sunday School and Adult Bible Class to give presentations. We will present him with a check from our weekly offerings. The May 20 crafting event with Joanna Ellner sold out in less than 50 minutes. This will take place at Lieferbrau at 6:30 p.m. That evening at 6:30 p.m. our men are invited to gather for the Men’s Club fish fry in the garage behind church. Please let me know so Gerald can have enough food on hand.

Our learning does not ever stop! Whether we are young or older we can learn new things each day! One of my favorite hymns in All God’s People Sing is number 90 “Earth and All Stars” because stanza five says:

Classroom and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song! Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!

God’s blessings, Bill Becker

The Rite of Confirmation: Sunday, April 18, 2021



St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Bud held a Public Examination Service on Wednesday, April 14 and the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, April 18 for 24 young people who publicly confessed the Christian faith after instruction in the Holy Bible and the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther.

Pictured are (front row, l-r): Eva Lillian Kinney, Taylor Nikole Guebert, Sofia Leigh Jones, Hailey Cecelia May Proctor, Summer Lynn Luttman, MaKayla Christine Liefer, Christine Joy Liefer, and Trenton Randy Wagner; (middle row, l-r): Samuel Michael Roscow, Tori Aevon Muench, Crewe Labraiah Wagner, Emerson Lynn Deterding, Chloe Grace Cowell, Olivia Grace Gerald, Natalie Marie Korando, and Karson Diedrich Liefer; (back row, l-r): Jakob David Biffar, Blake Aaron Henry, Bruce David Quinn, Jr., Cadin Jacob Voss, Lucas Edward Schwartzkopf, Gavin Jacob Baldwin, Connor Blake Jordan, Senior Pastor Mark Nebel, and Daniel Thomas Stapleton.

Fellowship Hall Midweek Bible Studies

Wednesday class at 7:30 p.m. has begun a study of 2nd Samuel. The Thursday 8:10 a.m. class has begun a study of the prophet Ezekiel. The 1st and 3rd Saturdays this month will be our 7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast. A Women's Bible Study has begun on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. "All Together Beautiful," written by Heidi Goehmann, explores the Old Testament book Song of Songs (Solomon). For more information on this class call Vickie Heller (618/521-7417) or Janel Kassing (618/977-1175).

Our Divine Call Is Answered!

At the call service for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on April 28 Seminarian Brian Nowack received the Divine Call that we along with St. John in Baldwin have extended for a Split-time Pastor who will serve us as an Associate Pastor and serve the Baldwin congregation as its Sole Pastor. He is a native of Chicago. He and his wife Heather have three children. We look forward to his installation here and service among us beginning this summer. For us this will replace our arrangement with Rev. Clifford Adair as our part-time Assistant to the Pastor.

From the Principal's Pen

Happy May! The sun is shining and the temperature is rising! Our students have had a fun time with the Scholastic Book Fair and Cougar Prowl Fun Run. Both were very successful, \$3500 in sales for the book fair and \$8600 raised for the fun run. Thank you for your support of these two fundraisers. Also, thank you for your support of the virtual dinner auction. The committee is happy with the results for items donated last year, about \$10,500. Cash donations were also given. We are thankful of these gifts also.

The track teams have had a great season so far! The Senior boys placed 1st in the OVC meet and the Senior girls placed 2nd in the OVC meet. The Red Bud Catholic Invitational saw both boys and girls coming in second place. The Junior OVC meet saw the boys coming in 1st and the girls 5th. We look forward to the SIJHSAA track meet on Saturday, April 24, in Chester. At this time we are not sure if the LSA Track meet will be held in River Forest, we will keep you posted. We had one school record set by Adam Guebert in 2000 that was beaten this year by Gavin Baldwin. Adam held the record for twenty-one years in the 200 Meter dash. Gavin hopes to even do better before the track season ends.

I am looking forward to the Washington DC trip with the 8th grade students, parents and guests. We are taking two buses to help keep people separated on such a long journey. Many buildings in Washington DC are still closed but we will see all the outside memorials and go to Arlington National Cemetery. Our other stops in Gettysburg, Mt. Vernon, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Monticello, and the Ark Encounter will look a little different but at least we will get to visit. Hopefully the students will appreciate the trip and cherish the many memories made for years to come.

The month of May will pass by quickly. Staff appreciation week will be May 3-7. Several field trips are planned for several grades with the 8th grade going to Springfield, Perry County Missouri and hopefully St. Louis. The annual Sports Awards night will be May 19 in Ratz Park. May 20 will be our last day of school with dismissal at 11 a.m. No lunch will be served and students will not be able to ride buses home as the public school will dismiss at 1 p.m. Graduation will be on May 25 at 7 p.m.

Looking ahead, registration/book night will be July 7 from 4-7 p.m. The list of costs are included in a separate section of this newsletter. The teachers are already making plans for next year. Red Bud District #132 has us on our usual yearly schedule with no remote days included. We are looking forward to our return to normal!

God's blessings to you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider

Sunday School News

Perfect Attendance for April: Kindergarten: Liza Wagner, Maggie Kuehn, Layla Meyer; 1st Grade: Claire Doeding; 2nd Grade: Aiden Arbeiter, Natalie Kassing, Sydney Krick, Lucy Kuehn, Holden Wagner; 5th Grade: Molly Kuehn; 7th Grade: Noah Kassing. Thank you for your participation in and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

Executive Secretary Position Available

With the retirement of Julie Ratz on June 15, the position of Executive Assistant/Secretary will be open. Applications are being accepted. The form is on our website at www.stjohnsredbud.org under “Contact Us” in the navigation bar. General responsibilities are: record and report congregational finances; publish official communications; and keep congregational membership and cemetery records. Expectations are: represent St. John’s in a Christian manner; have basic skills in using Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Excel and Quickbooks; work with the pastor(s) in carrying out the daily duties necessary for the smooth operation of the congregation; build good public relations with congregation members and the general public; and live as a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ guided by God’s Word and the teachings of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Salary will be based on years of experience and the Salary Guidelines of The Southern Illinois District-LCMS.

Congratulations

+St. John’s member and Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School senior Annelise Quinn was chosen Queen of its prom on April 17.

+St. John’s members and Red Bud High School seniors Kaleb Barriger, Claire Grohmann, Jordyn Mulherin, Avery Piel, and Jenna Salger were named to prom court.

+St. John’s members and Red Bud High School seniors Ben DeRousse, Ethan Fritsche, Adam Kiefer, Avery Piel, Dylan Roscow and school alumnus Meredith Whelan were recognized for being Illinois State Scholars.

+Basketball Awards: Parker VanDorn (MVP & defense), Easton Lucht (Hustle), Claire Grohmann (Miss Musketeer), Hannah Sievers (hustle), and Addi Dilley (Rookie of the Year)

+RBHS Academic Team is 4th in State with Ethan Fritsche, Avery Piel, Ben DeRousse, Dylan Roscow, Katie Schneider, Megan Henry and Hannah Sievers.

+Grayden Schloemann: State champion wrestler for the third year in a row!

God’s blessings to Christian Mothers!

Calling for Worship Greeters

Our Board of Elders wants to resume our practice of greeters for our worship services. Whether you have done this in the past or would be new to this ministry service, Pastor would like to hear from you. Please call or email him if you are willing to serve St. John’s in this way.

Calling All Graduates

Please contact our office with the names of St. John’s members who have or are graduating from some level of education this school year. We want to acknowledge them in our school’s graduation service folder, our weekend worship bulletins and our June newsletter. For those graduating from college, please include the type of degree they are receiving. Thank you!

Class of 2022 Fundraiser

Our current 7th grade class is doing a Code 3 Spices fundraiser. Contact any of them or their parents to place an order. They will have some spices and sauce available for purchase at their May 16 barbeque at school.

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

Registration is now online and open for Preschool and Kindergarten. Please log on to the addresses below to sign up for the 2021-2022 school year. Sorry, we are not able to have an open house or soup dinner this year, we hope to have it again next year.

Here are the web addresses for the registration forms.

Kindergarten: <https://forms.gle/A8vEHAXcHyZ9GcCV9>

Preschool: <https://forms.gle/TDK3QKmnMMBUXjcY9>

May Servers

Flowers: Alice Guebert and Becky Biffar

Paraments: Ella Hemmer

Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Website Bible Studies

Bible studies topics under the Media tab of our website www.stjohnsredbud.org are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, Baptism Q & A, Church & Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, End of the World, Discussing Homosexuality, 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! I have added all four sessions of our recent study, “Fear or Faith? Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living.”

The Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain Coordinator is Vickie Heller. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please call her 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).

ELDER ZONES FOR 2021: (Chairman, Eric Fritsche)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins-

Elder Eric Fritsche (618/410-5989)

Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann-

Elder Larry Gielow (618/830-4689)

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 Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)

Zone 7: A/A Piel thru Don Schrader-

Elder Mike DeRousse (618/719-7024)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner-

Elder Kevin Guebert (618/973-4356)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann thru Doug Zschiegner-

Elder Kirk Liefer (618/559-7950)

Men's Club

Our St. John's Men's Club will gather at 6:30 p.m. on May 20 in the garage behind church for our yearly fish fry. This is one week later than our usual meeting date due to Ascension Day being on the 13th.

Evening Guild News

On Tuesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. our Evening Guild gathers in the Fellowship Hall for Dutch Treat Night. S.L.A.M. Catering will serve their famous Turkey Bacon Ranch on pretzel bun with loaded potato salad. Dessert is Artisan ice cream from Sling 'n Scoops. The cost \$15. Devotions: "Raising Children Who Love Jesus" will be led by Marie Voges. Scripture "*Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it*" Proverbs 22:6 Please make a reservation before May 15 by calling or texting Sharon Guebert at 618-660-7803.

Quilting schedule for May is Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of the Faithful!

Junior Youth

We thank Jennifer Roscow and Lisa Quinn for their many years of service as leaders of our Junior Youth. With their youngest sons graduating 8th grade this month, they are turning over this leadership to others. Thank you for your service in the past and God's blessings on your continued service to Him and His people in the future!

Senior Youth

Our elected officers are Ethan Fritsche, President; Annelise Quinn, Activity Director; Dylan Roscow, Treasurer; and Hannah Sievers, Secretary.

Our meeting is this Sunday, May 2nd. We do not have anything else planned for May at this time.

We are graduating a majority of the youth group membership this year. I am hoping that we can fill up the basement with our large 8th grade class as new members!

Looking to this summer- We'll host a new member welcome event and encourage anyone in the congregation in HS 2021-2022 school year to join us. We'll need to host some BBQ's and get back to fundraising. We will have a "I think I am interested in attending the Gathering" meeting.

Our June meeting will be the second Sunday, the 13th. This could also be our new member welcome party.

The LCMS National Youth Gathering for 2022 will be in Houston. Those age 19+ can apply for a Team Flex position. These volunteers are part time. Their application deadline is April 2022. Later this year the application process will open up for YAV Team Captains and YAV's (watch for info July 2021).

All applications can be found on the gathering website: <https://lcmsgathering.com/volunteer/>

Terry and Susie Harms

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. All of her Lilyfield CDs are available on the table in the entryway for a \$10 donation to our school ministry.

Former St. John's member Bryan Perdue has made his latest CD of music, "Freely Given, Freely Received," available for us to purchase. The \$10 will be used for our congregation's Debt Reduction. They are on the table in the church entryway.

Good News! Our issue with the IRS over 2016 W2 forms has been resolved with penalties eliminated!

What Is A Steward? *From LCMS Stewardship*

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Galatians 6:6). (I remind the 8th graders of that verse every year on the day after confirmation, knowing how much they get in cards and gifts. It usually does not get me very far 😊 Pastor.) And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Corinthians. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deuteronomy 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His

salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon Himself our sins and in exchange gave us His righteousness. The Father claimed us as His own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where His name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1st Peter 2:9–10).

LCMS Foundation

Ben was eighty years old. He was in great shape for his age. Until fifteen years ago he had worked very hard, establishing his own business. The Lord blessed that effort with great value in that business. Upon retirement, it was time for Ben to enjoy more recreation time. He lined up four different groups with whom to golf throughout the week. His wife and he loved to gather with family and friends. In their new busy schedule of retirement, there was little energy left to review their estate plan.

Ben had always said that 25% of his assets, except for the house, would be a gift to their congregation. Eventually, Ben agreed to meet with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor and discovered that all his financial accounts were directed by beneficiary designations that would give 100% to his wife or 100% to their son. Since the will directed that their house be given to their son, and 100% of their financial accounts would be going to their son, what was left was about \$3,500 in the checking account that would be controlled by the gifting language of their will. This successful businessman was going to give a \$750 gift to his church.

That was not what Ben wanted at all! This realization moved him to put down the golf clubs for one day to work on his plans. After items were updated, Ben commented that he was really at peace knowing that their plan was secure and in place. He rejoiced in the gift that would be going to ministry.

Are you like Ben and his wife? Is it time for a review of your plans? Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott A. Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. May 1	5 p.m. Ava Clifford
Sun. May 2	8 a.m. Sage Pensoneau 10:30 a.m. Macie Brown
Sat. May 8	5 p.m. Morgan Kent
Sun. May 9	8 a.m. Austin Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Gavin Baldwin
Thu. May 13	8:30 a.m. Luke Quintin
Ascension	7 p.m. Kadence Koen
Sat. May 15	5 p.m. Sofia Jones
Sun. May 16	8 a.m. Brody Stellhorn 10:30 a.m. Trenton Wagner
Sat. May 22	5 p.m. Colt Hess
Sun. May 23	8 a.m. Kadin Liefer 10:30 a.m. Natalie Korando
Sat. May 29	5 p.m. Karson Liefer
Sun. May 30	8 a.m. Daniel Stapleton 10:30 a.m. Addelyn Rahn

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

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!



St. John's Spring Musical

Our students performed their Spring Musical in our old gym on Friday, April 9. Due to Covid restrictions, there was no one in attendance. The recording was shown in our Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 22. You may view it by using the following YouTube links:

<https://youtu.be/eyoGC08ZJHo> (Scenes 1-4 w/ K-3)

<https://youtu.be/KjDjy7H17ls> (Scenes 4-7 w/ grades 4-8)

Lansdowne Community Initiative

We have the opportunity "to do good and show mercy" by engaging in mission work right outside our church's doors – in the neighborhood of Lansdowne, East St. Louis, with Unity Lutheran Church/LCI's home renovations and community clean-up on every second Saturday or a date of your choice. Unity Lutheran Church/LCI, in partnership with Lutheran Churches across the Southern Illinois District (SID) and R3 will be working collaboratively to conduct "Clean-up Days" and renovations of properties, in close proximity to Unity Lutheran Church and Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School. Through this initiative, we seek to care for our neighbors' bodily needs and share Christ's love with them; to do good and show mercy!

To make this program a success we need your help!

You can help in the following ways:

- 1) Keep renovations and clean-up effort in your prayers.
- 2) Help with tasks such as yard cleanup, painting, and neighborhood beautification, etc...
- 3) Provide financial support.
- 4) Donate labor and materials: paint, drywall, drywall screws, plumbing supplies, doors, roofing supplies, gently used appliance, ceiling lights and fans, etc.

To learn more about the various ways that you can participate and/or contribute to this project with your gifts, time, and talents, please contact Rev. Dr. Willie P. Stallworth, Senior Pastor of Unity and LCI's CEO, at (314) 724-9949 or 618-874-6600.

Also, please consider making a monetary gift today to support LCI. Please, make all gifts payable to LCI and mail to 4200 Caseyville Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62204.

To learn more about LCI and this important work, please visit: **Facebook: Like us @**

Unity Lutheran Church East Louis or
Lansdowne Community Initiative-LCI
@LansdowneEastStLCI.org

May Church and School Calendar

Saturday, May 1-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:00 p.m. 8th Grade Class returns from its Washington DC trip

SUNDAY, May 2-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:25 a.m. Sunday School & Being Lutheran classes in new gym
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Noon Senior Youth gathering in the church basement hangout

Monday, May 3-

3:00 p.m. Faculty meeting
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

Tuesday, May 4- Pastor at district conference in Waterloo

12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in school library

Wednesday, May 5-

8:20 a.m. School Chapel in new gym; 8th grade?
9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
2:15 p.m. 7th/8th PS Confirmation class in the Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Bible class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Samuel)

Thursday, May 6-

8:10 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Ezekiel)

Friday, May 7- Pastor and Cindy are gone thru Monday am

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel in the new gym
Jump Rope for Heart & Food Drive Fun for Musketeer Market

Saturday, May 8-

10:00 a.m. Meet of Champions track in Salem
5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, May 9- Happy Mother's Day!

8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:25 a.m. Sunday School in new gym; "Being Lutheran" library
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, May 10-

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

Tuesday, May 11- 8th Grade Field Trip to Springfield

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

Wednesday, May 12-

8:20 a.m. School Chapel in new gym
9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
2:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes in FH
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Samuel)

Thursday, May 13- The Ascension of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at church
7:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service at church

Friday, May 14- 8th Grade Field Trip to Perry County, MO

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel in the new gym

Saturday, May 15-

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

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

SUNDAY, May 16 -

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:25 a.m. Sunday School & Being Lutheran classes in new gym
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)
11:00 a.m. Class of 2022 BBQ in the school parking lot

Monday, May 17-

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 18-

12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Evening Guild Dutch Treat Night in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 19-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

2:15 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes in FH

6:30 p.m. Sports Award Banquet at Ratz Park
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in the Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Samuel)

Thursday, May 20-

8:30 a.m. Closing School Service in the new gym
11:00 a.m. End of School dismissal
6:30 p.m. Men's Club fish fry gathering at church
6:30 p.m. Ladies Crafting Evening at Lieferbrau

Friday, May 21-

8:00 a.m. Faculty meeting
7:00 p.m. Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School Graduation

Saturday, May 22-

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

SUNDAY, May 23- The Day of Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:25 a.m. Sunday School & Being Lutheran classes in new gym
9:30 a.m. Adult/Youth Bible Classes in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Tuesday, May 25-

12:30 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. 8th Grade Graduation at church

Wednesday, May 26-

9:00 a.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Samuel)

Thursday, May 27-

8:10 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Ezekiel)

Friday, May 28-

Saturday, May 29-

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

SUNDAY, May 30- The Holy Trinity

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 with Holy Communion

Monday, May 31- Memorial Day! Office Closed