

# *The Epistle*

**JUNE 2022**

**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. Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor*

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

*Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal*

*Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education*

*Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director*

**From Lutheran Church Charities**

## **How to Read the Bible**

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes. (Psalm 19:7-8)*

Summer is a great time to develop a habit of daily Bible reading. How you approach reading the Bible is crucial. You must do two things: 1) Approach it with integrity. When a new Christian in a Bible study group said, 'I've had a hard time believing some parts of the Bible,' the others smiled and applauded. They didn't do it because unbelief is good news; they did it because he'd finally been honest enough to admit his doubts. Don't worry; God's not upset with you. Until you're willing to talk about your doubts, you can't resolve them.

When Thomas questioned the resurrection, Jesus showed up just to convince him. And He will show up for you too! It's a mistake to try to force yourself into believing something or avoid reading it so you don't get disturbed. Jesus said, *'When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth...He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you' (John 16:13-14 NIV).*

2) Read it with expectancy. Once you've been to a book signing, met the author and got his autograph, you feel very different about the book. You treasure it. And when you read the Bible with an expectant heart, the author shows up. As you read His words you begin to sense His presence and realize He is speaking to you personally. Jesus said, *'The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life' (John 6:63).* When you come to the Scriptures with a hunger and an expectancy, you never go away disappointed.

Prayer- Heavenly Father, by Your Holy Spirit move me to spend time reading Your revealed and inspired Word of the Holy Bible that I may learn more of Your love for me in Jesus and how that love can work in me and through me for Your glory and the good of those around me. Amen.

## **Your Pastors' Ponderings**

We rightly celebrated the service of teachers who are retiring from active ministry, our principal, Mrs. Deitt Schneider, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Darlene Letcher, and our teacher aid, Mrs. Patty Schnepel. We thank them for their dedicated service to our Lord and His people here at St. John's.

Yet, we realized that in planning for their celebrations that we did not do something we did every year, that is, pre-Covid. We did not hold our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. We certainly do appreciate the hard work of those many people who give of their personal time to make our ministry work at St. John's. They do so without any financial compensation, but with our heartfelt thanks. We can not do what we do without our dedicated volunteers.

I am sure that this is not the dictionary definition of the word, but it seems to be the understanding most people have of the verb, "to volunteer," that is, "work that I think other people should be doing." When was the last time you gave of your time for the good of others without anything in return?

Back to retirements. Today I heard a radio interview with a gerontologist who himself is in his 70s. He said that the average retired person watches 47 hours of television every week. (What is there on TV that is good enough to watch?) Also, he said that only 24% of retired people ever volunteer any of their time.

The average age of people is increasing. Those who now are 65 have a good chance of living into their 90s. Meanwhile, they are able to maintain their physical strength and mental health during many of those years. This should give that generation a chance to volunteer, to serve our Lord and His people as our Triune God has served them with His forgiveness, life and salvation.

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

Congratulations to all our graduates. I pray for God's continued blessings on you as you proceed into the next journey that God has in store for you. I also want to wish God's blessings to all who have retired. Thank you for all the years of service and dedication that you have provided to us in whatever vocation you were in. I would like to take a moment to point out the retirement of St. John's own: Patty Schnepel, Darlene Letcher, and especially our principal, Mrs. Deitt Schneider. While I have only been able to get to know each of you in a limited amount over my first year here, I want to thank you for your guidance and support. You will all truly be missed.

So, we're in a season of change. Flowers are blooming and the grass is growing, but the weather has been somewhat unpredictable. One day we're in the nineties and the next day we're in the sixties. One day we have beautiful, sunny weather, and the next day it's gloomy and cloudy. One day we have nothing but clear skies and the next day nothing but rain.

We just can't seem to be able to count on the weather to be consistent to get the things done we want to. However, we can also say the same thing about this broken, sin-filled, and evil world in which we live. There is so much that we can't count on. So, what can we count on?

We can count on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has, is, and always will be with us in good times and in bad. We can count on Him for everything. He loves us so much that He even endured the cross and gave up His very life for us. As the school year ends, what a better time for us to be reminded of who God is. What He does for us. What He has done for us. And that He has us in the palm of His hand.

This time of year, graduation parties, retirement celebrations, vacations, and other things start to take control of our time. Let us be cognizant of who we are and why we are here. Let us be reminded of who is really in control. As we start making summer plans, this is a good time for us to plan a commitment. God made so many commitments and promises to us and for us. What can we do to show our appreciation? Prayer. This summer, make a commitment of time for God. Commit to starting and/or every day in a time of prayer or devotion. Make a time commitment to God because He loves you. He cares for you. He wants to have a relationship with you. So, this summer, commit to giving back some of the time that God has given to you by giving it back to Him in prayer.

*God's blessings, Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor*

### **June Servers**

Flowers: Ruth Rohlfing and Martha Rohlfing  
Paraments: Virginia Moeller Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

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

May 15 Baptism of Tripp Clifford Fleming

May 15 Confirmation of Jeffrey Jerome Moll (adult)  
Jeff is a Red Bud native, the son of Jerry and Lois (Montroy) Moll. He is married to Julie (Stellhorn/Fleming) Moll. He works at Sunset Ford in South County. He enjoys woodworking, metal fabrication and lawn work.

### **Midweek Bible Classes**

Our Wednesday evening midweek Bible class on 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings continues during June. Our Wednesday Morning Women (Esther) and Thursday morning (Matthew) classes remain in session this month. The Thursday morning class has moved its time to 8-9 a.m.

Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on the first and third Saturdays (4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) this month at 7 a.m. We will study the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living."

### **A Musical Moment**

#### *Summer Music Opportunities*

Even though the summer brings a temporary pause to the regular choir and bell choir seasons, there are still plenty of opportunities to serve God and enhance the weekend worship services with gifts of music!

Once again, I'm inviting anyone who enjoys singing to take part in our "Summer Singers" group! (Even if it's just for one Sunday.) You do not have to be a regular choir member to participate! We will sing for the following worship services: Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (10:30 AM), Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (8:00 AM), Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> (10:30 AM), Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> (8:00 AM), and Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (8:00 AM). We will meet a half an hour before each service to practice the song. The songs we sing will be fairly simple, most likely in unison, but we can add some part-singing if there is interest. Kids and youth are welcome to come sing too!!

In addition to the Summer Singers, I'm inviting anyone with musical talent to share their gifts with the congregation during worship this summer! If you are interested, contact me and we can set something up! Students who played/sang at the Talent Show and Christmas services, would you be interested in playing/singing during a regular worship weekend worship service, too?

If you are interested in serving the congregation musically in any way during the summer months, please let me know!

*Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

### From the Principal's Pen

"Thank you" seems so simple for the outpouring of love and support I received for my retirement dinner! I was overwhelmed by everything! All the many hours and preparation for all those who worked so diligently was in every way over the top!! I have been so blessed by all of you in so many ways. Extreme thanks to the committee, faculty and friends who made the day perfect in every way. It is hard to leave the people and children that I have loved over these many years. I hope to help next year by volunteering; I hope this will work into their schedule. God bless all of you! The people of St. John's will always hold a special place in my heart.

No matter how hard I tried, the days of May slipped by much too quickly! As usual, the days were busy and so time flew by. I am happy the students were able to have field trips as in the past; our school year was the "normal" we were missing the last two years.

The Athletic Awards night was held on May 18. Please watch the North County News for all the special awards.

The last day of school was May 23 with a closing chapel service, awards and a short time for games before receiving their report cards. We recognized Patty Schnepel, Darlene Letcher and me as retiring teacher. We all had tears of sadness with leaving this wonderful school but look forward to our time with family.

All-Year awards are as follows:

**Kindergarten** – No all-year awards.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Perfect School** – Emry Voss, **Perfect Church** – Jack Valentine and Liza Wagner. **Perfect Sunday School** – Elsie Liefer and Liza Wagner.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Perfect Church** – Henry Schnepel

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** – No all-year awards.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Perfect School** - Aubrey Kiefer, **Honor Roll** – Amelia Cheek, Aubrey Kiefer, Brayden McCarthy, Kaydence Proctor, Elle Sutton, and Sophia Zeiger. **High Honor Roll** – Colton Albert, Addison Brier, Sutton Jones, Payton Liefer, Henry Sachtleben, Austin Stellhorn and Max Voss. **Highest Honor Roll** – Jozlynn Palm, Blaine Rohlfing, and Easton Ruebusch.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Honor Roll** – Liam Kilpatrick, Levi Nagel, Brendyn Wegener, Cailyn Wilson, and Brooke Wolter. **High Honor Roll** – Ella Cowell, Maya Macbeth, Carson Moll, and Jack Sachtleben. **Highest Honor Roll** – Tessa Stenzel.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Perfect School** – Emily Farmer and Norah Wagner. **Perfect Church** – Norah Wagner. **Honor Roll** – Joey Biffar, Cason Birch, Emily Farmer, Molly Kuehn, and Brian Liefer. **High Honor Roll** – Mallory

Arbeiter, Braylin Eggemeyer, Karleigh Liefer, Lilly Meyer, and Addy Schloemann. **Highest Honor Roll** – Norah Wagner.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Perfect School** – Kinley Macbeth. **Honor Roll** – Amelia Guebert, Annika Herriman, Kinley Macbeth, Lucas McCarthy, Liam Quintin, Blayton Sutton, Olivia Valleroy, and Colby Voss. **High Honor Roll** – Kendall Crafton, Milla Neff, Addie Rahn, Eve Schwartzkopf, Jenna Whelan, and Julia Whelan. **Highest Honor Roll** – Landon Ruebusch, and Brodie Stenzel.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Honor Roll** – Luke Quintin and Kerrigan Zieger. **High Honor Roll** – Evan Kiefer, Addy Piel, Alexa Wegener, and Emma Kiefer.

Graduation was held on May 24. Valedictorians for this year are Emma Kiefer and Addy Piel. Evan Kiefer was the Salutatorian. Addy Piel received the Scholar Athlete Award and Austin Kiefer the Citizenship Award. The President's Education Award was presented to Emma Kiefer, Evan Kiefer, Addy Piel and Alexa Wegener. Parents recognized as having their last child graduate for parental years of service were: Rev. Brian and Heather Nowak-1 year, Mike and Cynthia Cogar-12 years, Lori and Bill Rees and Cliff Crafton-12 years, James Liefer and Amanda Liefer-13 years, Chris and Sherry Salger -14 years, Darren and Melinda Kiefer-16 years, Alan and Amber Piel-16 years and Terry and Joy Meyer-18 years. We thank these parents for all they have done for our school.

We are ending our year as always by preparing for the 2022-2023 school year. I will help make plans to transition Justin Palm into his new position as principal. God will continue to be our leader as we follow Him.

My last Epistle will be the July issue so I will save my closing till then.

*God's blessings to you, Mrs. Deitt Schneider*



*St. John's school students sing during the program for the retirement celebration of our principal Deitt Schneider.*

# **Happy Father's Day!**



**Thank You!**

Dear Members of St. John’s, It is hard to put into words my feelings and emotions these last few weeks. Humbled is first and foremost. The love and support shown to me these past 17 years sure came to reality in the last few days. As I told the school kids on Monday, I have always been a firm believer that God puts you where you need to be. I am so very grateful that He brought me to St. John’s. Thank you, thank you, to the people who made it possible for me to continue doing what I love— teaching. You know who you are. Thank you for the generous gifts I received from all of you—the congregation, the school family, and the faculty and staff. It was so unexpected! I just wanted to retire quietly, but evidently that was not an option! I’m blessed to live in a beautiful, tight-knit little town and I take comfort in the fact I know I’ll still see most of you quite frequently out and about. I will cherish the 17 years of memories forever in my heart. You all are truly God’s gift to me! God’s peace, *Darlene Letcher*

**And Another Thank You**

"Thank you to Mark Vogt for cutting off the trunk of the tree that fell down by the softball field at school. We appreciate your time and work!" *Trustees*

**And Again Another Thank You**

“Thank you for participating in the Baby Bottle Project. We received from St. John’s \$739.37! We appreciate every dollard that you donated. It all makes a difference in our clients’ lives. *Board of Directors and staff of Life Network*

**Preschool/Kindergarten Registration**

The web address for Kindergarten Registration is <https://forms.gle/XzTLYhhTWB8Uy6KU7>.  
The web address for Preschool Registration is <https://forms.gle/CrPsl1hnshM6Y74M9>.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!**

**St. John’s Lutheran Elementary School**

- Ava Sue Clifford, Densil Wayne Cogar
- Jack William Crafton, Grayson Ryan Herriman
- Lily Ann Kent, Morgan Lee Kent
- Austin Jay Kiefer, Emma Noelle Kiefer
- Evan Samuel Kiefer, Kadin Lee Liefer
- Adeline Maria Meyer, Lillian Grace Nowak
- Addyson Elizabeth Piel, Lucas James Quintin
- Addison Lena Salger, Alexa Ann Wegener
- Kerrigan Beth Zeiger

**Red Bud Elementary School- Noah Kassing**

**Chester Grade School- Luke Kennedy**

**Red Bud High School**

Max Diewald, Maggie DuFrenne, Molly Ellner, Allyson Fruth, Lindsey Fruth, Caleb Guebert, Kole Guebert, Megan Henry(\*), Addison Liefer(#+), Colton Liefer, Easton Lucht, Madison Pensoneau(+), Katie Schneider, Hannah Sievers(\*), Michael Watters  
(\*co-valedictorians; #salutatorian; +class officers)

**College/University Graduates**

Andrea Liefer, Webster University  
Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice  
Briana Becker, Beck School of Practical Nursing  
Licensed Practical Nursing Degree  
Bryce Becker, Concordia University, Wisconsin  
Bachelor of Arts in History, Lutheran Teaching Diploma  
Kole Liefer, Rankin Institute of Technology



*St. John’s members and Red Bud High School Class of 2022 (l-r) Co-Valedictorian Megan Henry, Salutatorian and Class President Addison Liefer and Co-Valedictorian and Student of the Year Hannah Sievers.*

**Senior Youth**

Our Senior Youth is selling greeting cards (all occasions) for \$1. Cards are on display in the Fellowship Hall. We are using an honor system for payment. A money box is next to the card display. We also have full boxes of greeting cards for sale. They cost \$30 for 30 cards and come with a lovely storage box.

We will hold a fundraising BBQ in the school parking lot on Sunday, June 5, from 11 a.m. to ???

God's blessings to you! *Terry and Susie Harms*

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

As we recently celebrated Ascension Day I find the words to hymn 491 LSB verse one *Up through Endless Ranks of Angels* very fitting: “Up through endless ranks of angels, cries of triumph in His ears, To His heav’nly throne ascending, Having vanquished all their fears, Christ looks down upon His faithful, Leaving them in happy tears.” Having cried enough tears at the retirement celebration of Mrs. Deitt Schneider and at Mrs. Darlene Letcher’s gatherings how can one have any more tears? Jesus has ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for fellow believers in Christ. We shed tears of joy, sorrow, or frustration many times in life. Thanks be to God there will be no more tears in Heaven!

Looking into the month of June we will have VBS the week of June 13-17 from 9-11 a.m. up at church. The theme is “The Tree of Life: God’s Promise of Salvation.” This VBS examines God’s plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. Each session of this VBS explores Bible accounts that guide us through the epic story of salvation, from creation in the beginning of Genesis, to the cross of Christ in the beginning of the New Testament, and finally to Jesus’ return on the Last Day in the Book of Revelation. Ages three-year old preschool through fifth grade are invited to join us for fun lessons, music, crafts, snacks, and activities to learn how Jesus’ cross became the tree of life in which God forgives us and gives us everlasting life. Sign up online at: <https://vbsmate.com/StJohnsRedBudIL>. Volunteers are still needed too!

Summer Sunday school will begin June 5 and held in the front lobby of school. This is for all students from finishing Kindergarten to those entering grade eight.

In the month of June our daughter, Briana will graduate from The Southern Illinois Career Center (Beck) as a LPN. She received a scholarship that requires her to serve for a year in Randolph County. Thankfully, Diana and I won’t be “empty nesters” just yet! We are proud of her and this accomplishment!

With school letting out it would seem there will be more time for families to spend time together. Don’t forget as you travel away this summer to include the worship of our triune God in your plans. Using the LCMS locator link <https://locator.lcms.org/church> you can incorporate worship into your travels. When you are at home remember we offer Saturday and Sunday services year round.

Blessings on the beginning of your summer,  
*Mr. Bill Becker, Director of Christian Education*

### **Sunday School Perfect Attendance for May**

Nursery: Demi Grohmann

Pre-Kindergarten: Jettson Grohmann

First Grade:

Elsie Liefer, Liam Langrehr, Amelia Langrehr  
Thank you for your participation in and your dedication to learning about Jesus as Savior through our Sunday School ministry!

### **Vacation Bible School**

***June 13-17, 2022 9 a.m.-11 a.m.***

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**

Children who have just finished 3-year old Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (Please notice the change in age. It goes according to the grade you just finished in school rather than the grade you will be entering.)

No Fee Required-Donations Welcome

Questions can be directed to Bill Becker 618-282-2958

Please signup using this link:

<https://vbsmate.com/StJohnsRedBudIL>

### **Website Bible Studies**

Bible studies topics under the Media tab of our website [www.stjohnsredbud.org](http://www.stjohnsredbud.org) are Amen, Angels, Antichrist, Apostles, Apostolic Preaching of the Resurrection, The Resurrection in Revelation, Baptism Q & A, Church & Homosexuality, Communications Skills, Cremation, Christian Citizenship, End of the World, Discussing Homosexuality, Fear or Faith? Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living, 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?, and Word Dwellers.

### **Music CDs Available**

St. John’s member Joan Voges offers music CDs from her Lilyfields Collection to us for a donation to our school’s ministry. 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.

### **Calling For Worship Greeters**

Whether you have done this in the past or would be new to this ministry service, we have need of you. Please call or email Pastor if you are willing to serve St. John’s in this way. We need one person for the late service and two people for the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday evening of the month (only four times a year) and for special services.

### Worship Greeters

Sat. May 28 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  
Sun. May 29 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold  
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

Sat. June 4 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  
Sun. June 5 8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn  
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert

Sat. June 11 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  
Sun. June 12 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer  
10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt

Sat. June 18 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr  
Sun. June 19 8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele  
10:30 a.m. Cindy Ebers

Sat. June 25 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller  
Sun. June 26 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold  
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel

### Evening Guild News

Evening Guild does not meet in June, July, or August. Copies of the June edition of the LWML SID Newsletter are at the entrance of the church for pick up.

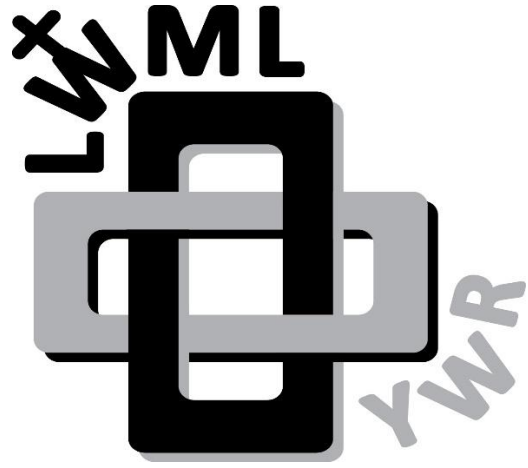
**LWML SID Convention:** The SID LWML Convention is September 16–17 to be held at Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School in Evansville. Representing the Evening Guild will be Patricia Liefer and Peggy Hanebutt as delegates. Mary Ann Wegener and Jeanne Stamm are alternates. To register for the convention go to [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org) and download the forms.

Update: Online giving on the Southern Illinois LWML website has a new feature. Check it out on the ‘donate’ button. You can make a memorial or thank you to a specific person with a credit card or from your checking account. Just print the “Alleluia Card” and include it with your card.

**Quilting** schedule for June is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon in the Quilting Room.

**Baldwin Sight Center:** Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin. Assembly dates for June are the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Call Mary Ann Wegener (282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

We are looking for Young Woman Representatives (YWR) from St. John’s congregation, ages 22 – 35, to assist in the LWML SID Convention on September 16 – 17, 2022. Please help in our search, or if you are interested in being a YWR, please text Sharon at 618-660-7803 for questions.



### 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).

### 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.

### An Invitation for Your Vacation

Greetings from Peace Lutheran Church LCMS Camdenton, Missouri, located near the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. Because we are a primary vacation destination of the Midwest, we see thousands of visitors come to enjoy the many attractions, sites, and activities that are offered throughout the year. If you are planning a visit to the Lake and are looking for a church to attend, we invite you to join us at Peace. Service of Word and Sacrament begins at 9 a.m. Then join us in fellowship with coffee and pastries.

We are located 9 miles north of Camdenton on Hwy 5, ½ mile north of the junction of Highways 5 & 7 or about 7 miles south of Sunrise Beach. (9307 N. State Hwy 5 at Greenview). You will be warmly welcomed! We are on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranchurhcamdenton>. All are welcome at the foot of the cross! God’s blessings, Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO



### **LCMS Foundation**

Two years ago, Marie's husband was called home to Jesus. Bud had always taken care of the financial matters: paying bills, investing, and planning for the future. They had been married for seventy years. Now, Marie was feeling overwhelmed. The financial planner kept calling, asking her permission to change investment strategies. The life insurance company regularly had calling teams contacting her, asking if she wanted to add to her coverage. The local bank kept sending mail asking her if she wanted to refinance the mortgage. The senior living representative she and Bud had met four years ago kept asking if she was ready to move into assisted living. The burden of these decisions was overwhelming. So, when her daughter asked her if she had reviewed her will lately, Marie became angry. "I just need everyone to leave me alone. Stop bugging me."

It is wise to do good planning while both spouses are alive. It is even better to make sure that those plans are written down, detailing an organized, planned approach to caring for the financial gifts God has placed in your care. It is unwise to expect that children or other relatives will be able to jump in, without any prior involvement, to make the same kind of choices you have chosen all your life. They will lovingly do their part, but you may be asking them to carry out a difficult or impossible task. Planning can bring peace of mind. When a good plan is in place, seeking interaction with professional legal, financial or tax advisors can be seen as continuing that plan. Asking children to help will also be part of that continuance.

Now is a good day to start. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can highlight areas of decision and point you to the right professionals to help you write down a plan, all the while expressing your love for your family and your devotion to the Lord. Contact Planning Counselor Scott Radden at [Scott.Radden@lfnd.org](mailto:Scott.Radden@lfnd.org) or (618) 977-4049.

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

In the explanation of the Creed's First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

"(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us. A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

### Acolyte Schedule

Sat. May 28 5 p.m. Ava Clifford  
Sun. May 29 8 a.m. Mallory Arbeiter  
10:30 a.m. Kinley Macbeth  
Sat. June 4 5 p.m. Case Hess  
Sun. June 5 8 a.m. Annika Herriman  
10:30 a.m. Addyson Piel  
Sat. June 11 5 p.m. Kade Liefer  
Sun. June 12 8 a.m. Eve Schwartzkopf  
10:30 a.m. Brian Liefer  
Sat. June 18 5 p.m. Brodie Stenzel  
Sun. June 19 8 a.m. Addelyn Rahn  
10:30 a.m. Jack Kennedy  
Sat. June 25 5 p.m. Landon Kilpatrick  
Sun. June 26 8 a.m. Joey Biffar  
10:30 a.m. Sydney Kassing

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

### June Church and School Calendar

SUNDAY, May 29-  
8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School in FH  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
Monday, May 30- Memorial Day! Office Closed  
Tuesday, May 31-  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
Wednesday, June 1- No evening Bible class today!  
9 a.m. to noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
Thursday, June 2-  
8:00 a.m. Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)  
6:00 p.m. Mollet/Fadler wedding rehearsal  
Saturday, June 4-  
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the FH (Proverbs)  
3:00 p.m. Meghan Mollet and Brandyn Fadler wedding  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
SUNDAY, June 5- The Day of Pentecost  
8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the FH (Minor Prophets)  
9:30 a.m. Summer Sunday School in the new gym lobby  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
11 a.m. Senior Youth Fundraising BBQ in school parking lot  
Monday, June 6-  
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall  
Tuesday, June 7-  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
Wednesday, June 8-  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting  
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)  
Thursday, June 9-  
8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)  
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

Saturday, June 11- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service  
SUNDAY, June 12-  
8:00 a.m. Divine Service  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the new gym lobby  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
Monday, June 13-  
9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church  
Tuesday, June 14-  
9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center  
Wednesday, June 15-  
9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church  
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall  
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)  
Thursday, June 16  
8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the school library (Matthew)  
6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meets in school library  
Friday, June 17-  
9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School and closing at church  
Saturday, June 18-  
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall  
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
SUNDAY, June 19-  
8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the news gym lobby  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)  
Monday, June 20- Office Closed  
7:00 p.m. Church Council meets in the school library  
Tuesday, June 21-  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
Wednesday, June 22-  
9 a.m. to Noon 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)  
Thursday, June 23-  
8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)  
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin  
Saturday, June 25- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service  
SUNDAY, June 26-  
8:00 a.m. Divine Service  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School in the new gym lobby  
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion  
Tuesday, June 28-  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall  
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place  
Wednesday, June 29-  
9 a.m. to Noon 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings)  
Thursday, June 30-  
8:00 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)