

The Epistle

SEPTEMBER 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

Mr. Justin Palm, Principal

Mr. William Becker, Director of Christian Education

Mrs. Amanda Falkenhain, Daycare Director

From Lutheran Church Charities

Night Vision

“But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.” *Isaiah 50:11*

When the darkness you are experiencing is God-ordained, don't try to create your own light: **‘You who...walk in the light of your fires...will lie down in torment.’** Abraham decided to kindle his own fire when God's promise of an heir didn't materialize quickly enough. Tired of waiting, he decided to go it alone by fathering Ishmael, and ended up creating problems that would last for generations. God had already promised to liberate Israel, but Moses took it upon himself to do things his way. As a result he killed an Egyptian slave master and spent the next forty years in the wilderness (see **Exodus 2:11-15**). Peter promised to follow Jesus to prison and to death (see **Luke 22:33**), but because he didn't wait for instructions he ended up lopping off an innocent man's ear. When you're in darkness by divine design you don't have to be afraid, God will bring you through. Why are we so sure? Because the Bible gives us great promises like: **‘Light arises in the**

darkness for the upright’ (Psalm 112:4), and ‘weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning’ (Psalm 30:5). The forty days Moses spent alone on the mountain, Elijah's stay on Mount Horeb, and Paul's years in the Arabian Desert weren't wasted experiences; they were part of God's plan. Jesus said, **‘What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight’ (Matthew 10:27).** Notice two things in this Scripture: 1) It's in your worst moments that God gives you some of your best insights. 2) People will listen to you because you've ‘earned the right to speak.’ So sit tight and let God teach you things which can only be learned in the dark.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give me the patience to learn while in the darkness of my life now, the light of the future You have prepared for me in Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

When looking through a file recently I came across this article from what I expect is an old St. John's newsletter. It was written by Pastor Donald Schultz. It is called “When to Call Your Pastor.” I will share with you the main points. I hope that most of them seem obvious to you. However, many of these contacts do not happen as they should even in an age where communication is not limited to just a landline telephone call, but can take place with a cell phone call, a text message, an email, or over Fast Direct (though I do not use it as much). Call Your Pastor:

- ...Before Going to or When in the Hospital.
- ...When There Is a Death in the Family
- ...When Dealing With Prolonged Grief
- ...When You Are Spiritually Depressed
- ...When You Get Engaged and Plan to Marry
- ...When You Are Expecting a Baby
- ...Before You Decide to Divorce
- ...If You Want to Discuss a Sermon

I am going to add to this list, call your pastor before you decide to move in with someone outside of marriage. I would like to give you information that you probably will not hear from the world around us.

Also, you might think that posting something on Facebook is the same as contacting me with your news. While I do have a Facebook account, I have to be totally bored and have absolutely nothing else to do in order for me to check it. I know that many people love looking at Facebook and like keeping in touch with others that way so that you know what each other had for breakfast, but personally I think it is a huge time waster and the cesspool of modern gossip. (And I am still fuming over selling my stock in it at \$71 a share when my daughter told me seven

years ago, “Nobody uses Facebook anymore, Dad.” Do I sound bitter?)

Anyhow, I liken the use of Facebook to yelling your news out an open window and expecting everyone to hear you. So, my personal policy on that is this, if you want me to know something and to act on it on your behalf, I will be happy to hear from you and help you in any way I can, but I ask that you contact me personally, directly and individually in the many ways that are available to you (sorry for the soapbox sounding soliloquy). More on this in next month’s newsletter. Until then, I hope to hear from you! *Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Well, it’s that time of year. A new school has begun. Kids have returned to school. Teachers and other school workers have returned to work. For many, this can be an exciting time. Time to get back into a routine. Time to see teachers they haven’t seen in a while. Time to see friends that they haven’t seen in a while. Time to learn new and exciting things. It definitely can be an exciting time of year.

However, let us not forget that this time of year can also be stressful for people. Some kids are starting at a new school. Some kids will have completely different teachers. Some teachers and other school workers are starting new jobs. This definitely can lead to a very stressful and anxious time of year.

So how can we combat feeling overwhelmed, anxious, and feeling stressed out? One word ... PRAYER. Let us not forget that our Lord has provided us with prayer. He wants us to communicate with Him and have a relationship with Him. We don’t just leave it up to those people going through these tough times to pray for themselves. No, we as Christians can and should continue to keep these people in our prayers.

We can get caught up in day-to-day living, lose track of what’s going on, and forget about praying to our Lord for ourselves, others, and our enemies. We need to continue to pray for God to comfort, protect, and help all those who are going through difficult times and struggles.

However, don’t just pray to God in bad or difficult times. No, continue to daily go to our Lord and Savior in prayer. Pray in bad times. But don’t forget to continue to pray in good times as well. God wants to hear from us in good times and in bad. So continue to daily pray to God even for the blessing He has bestowed upon you and others.

God’s Blessings on a safe and enjoyable school year,
Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor

**Confirmation for Public School Students in
Grades 6-8 is Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in our
school building (unless otherwise arranged).
6th Grade: Mr. Becker in Classroom 103
7th Grade: Pastor Nowak in Office Conference Room
8th Grade: Pastor Nebel in the library**

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

- August 1 Transfer in of Nicholas Mounts from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois
- August 7 Baptism of Sawyer Gene Sondag (son of Nick and Candance [Koester] Sondag)
- August 13 Baptism of August Paul Guebert (son of Adam and Lisa [Klingler] Guebert)
- August 27 Baptism of Finn Edmund Voss (son of Derrick and Lori [Billingsley] Voss)
- August 31 Baptism of Trinity Arabella Bolter
- August 31 Baptism of Braylon Aaron Brooks (children of Ashley Wolfmeier)

We Bid a Fond Farewell

- August 1 Transfer out of Sarah Kueker and Drew Kueker to St. John Lutheran Church, Ruma, Illinois
- August 1 Transfer out of Bryce Becker to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Mattoon, Illinois
- August 1 Release of Allison Kueker and baptized children Grayson Kipping and Preslie Kipping

Midweek Bible Classes

Our Wednesday evening midweek Bible class on 2nd Kings will not meet on the 7th but otherwise continues during September. Our Wednesday Morning (9:30 a.m.) Women (Colossians) and Thursday morning (Matthew) classes remain in session this month. The Thursday morning class has moved its time to 7:15 to 8 a.m.

Men’s Bible Breakfast will meet on the first and third Saturdays (3rd and 17th) this month at 7 a.m. We are studying the Old Testament book of Proverbs, “Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living.”

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.

A Musical Moment

September is one of my favorite times of the year! This is when the Choir and Bell Choir begin practices for the 2022-2023 season! Listen for both to “sing out” and “ring out” in our weekend worship services! Both play an average of 2-3 services per month.

Choir is always looking for more singers! We will start on Monday, September 12th at 7 PM in the school music room. Choir mostly sings at the 8:00 AM Sunday services but on All Saints Day (Sunday, November 6th) we will sing at the 10:30 service instead. Some of the other special services we will sing at this year include Reformation (October 30th), Thanksgiving Day (9 AM, November 24th), and Christmas Day (9 AM service). Any new and returning members are welcome and appreciated!!

The handbells are currently at the Schulmerich Bell factory in Pennsylvania getting some much-needed upgrades, repairs, and refurbishments. They should be finishing up about now. Hopefully, they will be shipped back in time for the tentative first bell choir rehearsal on Thursday, September 8th! If not, we'll make adjustments. I am looking forward to hearing how the “new and improved” bells will sound!

God's blessings on the beginning of the fall season! If you would like to contribute to the music program at St. John's Lutheran in any way, please let me know! I look forward to serving you in music ministry this fall season and beyond! *Mrs. Lindsey Hudak, Director of Parish Music*

Worship Greeters

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| Sat. Sept. 3 | 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr |
| Sun. Sept. 4 | 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert |
| Sat. Sept. 10 | 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller |
| Sun. Sept. 11 | 8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele
10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt |
| Sat. Sept. 17 | 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr |
| Sun. Sept. 18 | 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel |
| Sat. Sept. 24 | 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller |
| Sun. Sept. 25 | 8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf |
| Sat. Oct. 1 | 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr |
| Sun. Oct. 2 | 8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt
10:30 a.m. |

From the Principal's Pen

School is off to a good start as we enter the third week already! Time flies when you are having fun! It is great to be back in our routine with in-person classes, chapel held together, and sports. Classes are allowed to have lunch and recess together with limited numbers indoors. Yes, we still have to do things differently, but we will make the best of our situation and move forward.



Opening Day of School 2022

We welcome new families into our school along with all returning students. We have always recognized our PreSchool and Kindergarten students but also welcome five new students. The list of students is as follows: Three-Year-old Preschool- Samuel Blanchett, Russel Brittingham, Bennett Buch, Demi Grohmann, Katharina Hess, Benjamin Langrehr, Karlyn Meier, Brady Norton, Lyvia Okunola, Victoria Stolte, and Clark Thien. Four-Year-old Preschool- Brysen Ahne, Oliver Brown, Colton Fisher, Huxton Grohmann, Brooke Horrell, Vaughn Kern, Owen Prange, Jacobe Ramirez, Brynlee Schaefer, Hanna Schilling, Wyatt Spanberger Bentley Valentine and. Kindergarten- Braylon Brooks, Fletcher Eggemeyer, Elizabeth Farmer, Jettson Grohmann, Madalynn Gulley, Elaina Heck, Lane Kern, Tate Markotay, Carter Mehring, Kolton Meier, Addelyn Moll, Ava Moll, Luke Pollard, Kayli Reinhardt, Hayden Schlimme, Emma Schlueter, Eleanor Smith, Hazel Veath, Ava Wilson.



Teacher Betty Schmitz and Pastor Mark Nebel stand with the Kindergarten class after they presented the students with their “My First Bible Storybook” following the Early Childhood Chapel service on August 26. The funding for these came from Thrivent through the sponsorship of St. John’s Evening Guild. Thank you!

1st Grade- Kayda Kaiser and Lynleigh Wingerter. 3rd Grade- Mason Wiegard. 4th Grade- Cooper Wingerter, 8th Grade- Brayden Schlesinger. The breakdown by grade is as follows: PreK 3-11, PreK 4-12, K-19, 1st-15, 2nd-21, 3rd - 14, 4th -22, 5th -22, 6th -10, 7th -14, and 8th -26. Our enrollment for PreK-8 th is 186 and K-8 is 163. Our Daycare has 97 more students that are not included in our Preschool number so we have a total of 283 students hearing the good news of Jesus Christ on a daily basis! We give thanks for all of our children and pray for God's blessings to be upon them throughout our year.



Installed in the late service on August 14 were Principal Justin Palm and 5th grade teacher Amanda Ruhmann.

On August 14, the congregation of St. John's Lutheran recognized workers for years of service to St. John's Lutheran Church and School and years of service to the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. The following people were given a certificate and gift certificate from the congregation by congregation president, Kevin Liefer: Rachel Miller- 30 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Rebekah Liefer- 25 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Kenny Williams- 20 Years of Service to St. John's Lutheran Church, Pastor Mark Nebel and Marilyn Oettle-

15 years to St. John's Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran School, Stephanie Valleroy- 10 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Bob Schramm- 5 years to St. John's Lutheran School, Eileen Siebold- 10 years to St. John's Lutheran Daycare, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Gerry Thompson- 5 years service to St. John's Lutheran Daycare. Missing from the picture is Pastor Mark Nebel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Bob Schramm, and Kenny Williams.



Pictured are (front row, l-r), Gerri Thompson, Kristi Martel, Eileen Seibold, and Rebekah Liefer; (back row, l-r) Pastor Mark Nebel, Patti Brewer, Rachel Miller, and Stephanie Valleroy

Looking ahead we have a busy month with Softball, Baseball and Cross Country. The teachers will attend the Lutheran Elementary School Association workshop on September 2, in person at Zion Lutheran School St. Charles. We will not have school on September 5 in observance of Labor Day. Our first Parent Teacher League meeting is on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. Palmer music will begin on September 5th; students may still sign up if you are interested in playing an instrument. September 23rd is Grandparents Day and an early dismissal day with no lunch being served and no after school care. Our sixth grade class will enjoy "Outdoor Education" at Camp Wartburg on September 26 and 27th. The eighth grade class will be visiting Beck for a Technical Career Day.

Our school will be returning to normal preCovid activities with hopes of again hosting our fall festival, in person Christmas Services, and many more activities. Our

teachers have already been working hard to assure that Grandparents day will happen and we look forward to again having many volunteers in our school during the day and at events. If you have any interest in volunteering please contact the school office at 618-282-3873.

A big thank you to our Board of Trustees and all the volunteers who helped complete projects at school. The big job was the replacement of lights in the old gymnasium; these lights were provided by the sports concessions proceeds. Other jobs were completing some safety issues for our insurance company. We are thankful to John Preston for organizing the workers and seeing the jobs through completion.

Staffing for our school looks different this year as Ms. Ruhman replaces Mrs. Letcher as our 5th grade teacher, Ms Judy Stephens replaces Lara Vauss as our Resource Teacher, and Mrs. Schnepel, Mrs. Whelan, Mr. Becker, and I work together to fill the 8th grade position. We were blessed to fill all needed positions but look forward to any information that could help locate a teacher wanting to teach math and science at the junior high school level.

Finally, staffing for our school will look different for next year as Mrs. Cindy Steele has announced that she will retire after this year, her 30th school year at St. John's Lutheran School. I will keep you posted on filling vacant positions once it is determined what we need as staff will have first chances to change assignments of classes.

Yours in Christ, Mr. Justin Palm

Evening Guild News

LWML SID Convention is Sept. 16 & 17 at COSLHS in Evansville (Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 8:20 a.m.)

Evening Guild is sponsoring an event for all women of St. John's on Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 p.m. Salad buffet - each member is to bring a dish for the Social Salad Supper. Hostesses: Linda Guebert, chairman, Ella Hemmer, Chris Kellerhouse, and Patti Liefer. Special guest speaker: Joanie Harwell of KFUE radio.

LWML SID / CID Retreat is at Camp CILCA north of Springfield on October 7 & 8, 2022. Southern and Central Illinois Districts are hosting an LWML Bible Study led by author Diane Grebing. Registration forms are at sidlwml.org.

Fall LWML Quarterly magazine is in the church entrance for pick up.

Thanks to everyone who worked on quilt day to help the helpless. We assembled 23 quilts and tied 20. They need to be hemmed and that can be done by hand or sewing machine. Pick up a quilt in Sunday school room #2 to hem. Appreciate help from anyone!

Baldwin Sight Center: Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin. Assembly dates for September are the 8th and 22nd. Phone Mary Ann Wegener (618-282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

Sunday School Information

Sunday, Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m. All Ages class in the FH

From Your Director of Christian Education

Happy first of the four months ending in "er"! My favorite season of the year begins this month! I love the beauty of God's creation especially on a cool, crisp autumn morning! I recently led chapel for the three through eight grade group on the topic of Creation. I emphasized that contrary to scientific theory God is our Creator! Thanks be to God for His daily gifts to us through His creation!

The school year is off and running. The first weeks are finishing up and I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of the school year has in store. Events planned for this month include class meetings for the 8th grade trip planning for grades five through seven on Sept. 1 at 6:00, 6:30, and 7:00 p.m. in the school's library. A crafting event with Jo Ellner will be held on Thursday, Sept. 22. Fifteen ladies have signed up to make a fall centerpiece creation. The non-crafters are welcome to join me in a friendly game of euchre. All the fun begins at 6 p.m. at Lieferbrau! Grandparent/Special Guest Day is being planned for Friday, Sept. 23. Watch for more information on this. Pastor Nebel, Pastor Nowak, and I will host the Acolyte training and pizza party for all students in grades six through eight on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Students will be signing up for the service that the family generally attends to serve in this way. Each Sunday I will be hosting the high school Bible class in my classroom, 103 at 9:30 a.m. Our topic is on helping young people to have a resilient identity in Christ.

The Senior Youth will be meeting on the second Sunday of each month. September 11 will be our meeting. Food and drinks will be provided. We will start to work on our care packages for college kids. Please let me know the addresses of those young adults who are enrolled in college for this school year. We will send them a little package from their home church and youth group! The Junior Youth will go to Eckert's in Millstadt towards the end of the month. Watch for more information to come. The Sunday school teachers will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 26 in the school's library for our monthly meeting.

God's richest blessings in the month ahead!

DCE Bill Becker

High School Bible Class- Mr. Becker's Classroom

Sundays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

In the Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry we talk about congregations helping young people to have a resilient identity in Christ. Resiliency is the quality that allows for an individual to bounce back and adapt when faced with stress, adversity, or tragedy. Resilient Christians can navigate all the challenges and struggles in our world while maintaining their identity in Christ. Healthy youth ministry helps to root young people in their Christian identity, regardless of what they face in life.

God is the creator of all things and He also holds all things together. Resilience is part of His work in holding all things together inside of us and between us. Resilience has a lot to do with our emotions and mental health, our relationships, challenges, struggle, hope, and God's promises.

This five-part study is designed to help young people to think about resilience and, through the Holy Spirit, to develop this quality in their faith lives. These sessions include:

Session 1—What is Resilience? Passage: Hebrews 12:1-3
Word of Resilience: Jesus is enough.

Session 2—Shame Resilience: When Grace Seems Far Away; Passage: Genesis 2:15-3:24
Word of Resilience: I am a forgiven child of God.

Session 3—Emotional Resilience: When I Am Overwhelmed; Passage: Psalm 116:8-9
Word of Resilience: God is with me in every high and low.

Session 4—Relational Resilience: When People Disappoint; Passage: 1st Corinthians 12:20-27
Word of Resilience: Relationships are worth the trouble.

Session 5—Spiritual Resilience: When Wrestling Comes
Passage: Genesis 32:22-32
Word of Resilience: This is not all there is.

Senior Youth

High School Youth will meet in their church basement hangout on Sunday, September 11 at noon. There will be a meal with this meeting. We invite our new freshmen to join us at this time! We will work on creating care packages for our college members.

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.

Junior Youth

Our Junior Youth (Grades 4-8) will go to Eckert's Orchard later in September for an outing. We are waiting on a phone call from there to determine a date. More information to come!

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, 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.

September Servers

Flowers: Jill Hanebutt and Martha Krick

Paraments: Ella Hemmer

Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Ladies Are Invited!

On Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m. all women of St. John's Lutheran Church are invited to join in the Fellowship Hall for a "Salad Supper" and to hear Joanie Harwell, retired KFUE AM Radio host. You will love Joanie as she shares Christ's love and her unique ideas on how to serve others.

Older Adult Bus Trip

The Southern Illinois District Older Adult Bus Trip will be held on October 18, 2022. This trip will be to St. Louis and include stops at the Cathedral Basilica, Llywelyn's Pub and Trinity Lutheran Church in Soulard. The cost for the trip is \$50 by September 23rd and \$55 after that until October 7th. The fee includes the cost of the bus trip and lunch. For more information contact Bob Polansky at Robert_Polanski@lcfcs.org or call 618-979-0918.

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).

Concordia Seminary Field Education Student

Lucas (Luke) Frauenhoff; Home Church: St. John Lutheran Church & School, Berlin, Wisconsin



“³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – *Romans 8:38-39*

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior! My name is Luke Frauenhoff. I was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois. I attended St Paul Lutheran School pre-school through 8th grade. After St Paul, I attended West Aurora High School where I played tennis for 3 years. I attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree double majoring in finance and marketing, graduating in May 2015. Shortly after graduating, I moved to Madison, Wisconsin to pursue a career in real estate and property management.

My parents were in public education, with dad teaching 5th grade and middle school before moving to administration and mom teaching 2nd and 3rd grade at various schools throughout the district. As of May 2022, both are retired and kept busy this first summer of “true retirement”. My sister, Carley, lives in Aurora and works for International Sport Management in Chicago doing event planning. We have a vacation house about 30 minutes of the Wisconsin Dells where we go to enjoy the outdoors. In our free time, we enjoy going to sporting events cheering on the UW Badgers, Brewers and Packers.

In my free time, I enjoy staying active and being outdoors. I am anticipating playing tennis at Concordia Seminary in the spring. Music has been a large part of my life as well. I play piano, guitar and started taking organ lessons while at La Crosse and intend to take up lessons while at the seminary. My grandpa Cota was a church organist in Eau Claire, Wisconsin for 52 years and was a big influence in getting me involved in music. I started singing in the choir in Madison and intend to continue to sing in choirs while at seminary.

I look forward to getting to know everyone and serving St. John’s. *In Christ’s love and service, Luke*

Digital Media Workshop

On Saturday, September 24, Zion Mascoutah will host a Digital Media Workshop entitled, “What Is Real? The Church and Digital Media.” Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m., with an Opening Welcome and Devotion at 9:30. This presentation is open to a wide range of ages, from pre-teens to grandparents, and everyone in between. The presenter will be Peter Slayton, the Manager of Social Media for LCMS Communications. He will present three sessions.

The first session will be “The Reality of the Church,” the second session will be “The Digital ‘Reality’ of the Metaverse,” and the final session will be “Being Real People in a Digital World.” The event will include lunch. The day will conclude with a Closing Devotion at 2 p.m. The cost (including lunch), is \$10 per person. Please email Pastor Clayton at Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org to register.

LCMS Foundation

Life in this world God created is full and rich, with multiple blessings and opportunities. That is terrific, but it also means that we never seem to complete everything we wish to complete. Sharing our faith with family, others at Church, or in our communities should never end up on the regret list. We would rather give up a trip to the lake or our favorite concert than miss sharing the best news of all: that Jesus conquered sin, destroyed death, and brought life forward with His resurrection and ours.

Myrna and Sid decided to not live in this regret. For a couple of months, they began thinking about their favorite Bible verses, the best moments of faith shared with family and friends, and the hope to which they were focused as they prepared to finish their earthly lives. Then they each spent a week writing some thoughts down. They shared them with each other. They laughed, wept and hugged, thanking God for the richness of life. They then shared these statements of faith with their pastor, asking him to share them at their funerals someday. They printed off a copy for each child and grandchild and placed it in a card with a handwritten note to each one, with notes that they should be distributed when the Lord called them home. It took some time, but they really enjoyed this deliberate process. They knew that their lives were now deliberate testimonies of faith in Jesus. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more details.

Mum Sale

The Class of 2024 (7th Grade) is selling mums in various colors for \$9. Pre-orders are due in our office by September 7. Pick-up in our school parking lot on Thursday, September 15 from 2:30 to 7 p.m.

What Is A Steward? *From LCMS Stewardship*

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner’s property on the owner’s behalf.

We are God’s stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God’s fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn’t belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and

your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let’s dive into the God’s Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

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 two people for the late service.

St. John’s Golf Tournament

Our 30th annual golf tournament is Sat., Sept. 17th at 9 a.m. at North County Country Club. This will be a 4-person scramble. Entry fee is \$250/team for golf, cart, and a meal following the tournament. All proceeds will benefit St. John’s Lutheran School Athletic Fund. Please contact Quent Stenzel at 618-282-4661 with any questions. Registration and payment are due by September 10th.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Sept. 3	5 p.m. Colt Hess
Sun. Sept. 4	8 a.m. Lucas McCarthy 10:30 a.m. Norah Wagner
Sat. Sept. 10	5 p.m. Ty Voss
Sun. Sept. 11	8 a.m. Landon Ruebusch 10:30 a.m. Loreli Aubuchon
Sat. Sept. 17	5 p.m. Connor Bumann
Sun. Sept. 18	8 a.m. Eve Schwartzkopf 10:30 a.m. Lilly Meyer
Sat. Sept. 24	5 p.m. Olivia Candler
Sun. Sept. 25	8 a.m. Addelyn Rahn 10:30 a.m. Hollis Wolfmeier

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

Prayer For Peace In Our Land

Lord God, heavenly Father, You are the very God of peace. Abate the pride, check the malice and confound the devices of all who are not lovers of peace. Arise and, with

Your good right hand, help all the oppressed and miserable of the earth. Grant grace, that the dissensions and bitterness that now prevail may finally be put aside; and set thereon the seal of permanence and of blessing, that Your Word may have free course everywhere and that the vineyard which You have planted among the nations may flourish. Give peace in our time, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(from “Free to Be Faithful” Summer 2022, a newsletter of the Office of Religious Liberty of the LCMS)

September 14- Holy Cross Day

September 29- St. Michael and All Angels Day

September Church and School Calendar

Thursday, September 1-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
4:30 p.m. Boys' Baseball/Girls' Softball home vs. Evansville
Class meetings: 6 p.m.- 5th; 6:30 p.m.- 6th; and 7 p.m.- 7th grades
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday, Sept. 2- No School! Lutheran Elem. School Workshop

Saturday, September 3- Cross Country at Pinckneyville

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the FH (Proverbs)
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, September 4-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. All ages Bible Class/Sunday School in the FH
10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, September 5- Labor Day! No School! Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6-

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference in Marion
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Boys' baseball at home vs. St. James
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 7-

8:30 a.m. Upper Grades School Chapel Service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
4:30 to 8:30 p.m. CPR training for school staff

Thursday, September 8- Cross Country meet at COSLHS

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
4:15 p.m. Boys' baseball home vs. St.Mary's/St.John- Chester
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meets in school library

Friday, September 9- Cross Country meet at Lincoln Park

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades School Chapel Service at church
7:00 p.m. Men's Club Gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 10- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

Boys' B team tourney at PDR; Girls' A team tourney at RBC
SUNDAY, September 11- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Sunday School/High School Bible Class at school
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
Noon Senior Youth Meal and Meeting in the church basement

Monday, September 12-

3:15 p.m. School Faculty meeting in the school library
4:15 p.m. Boys' baseball and Girls' softball at Valmeyer
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

Tuesday, September 13-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center
7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher League Meeting in the cafeteria

Wednesday, September 14-

8:30 a.m. Upper Grades School Chapel Service at Church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Kings)

Thursday, September 15-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

4:15 p.m. Boys' baseball and Girls' softball at RBES

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, September 16-

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades School Chapel Service at Church
7:00 p.m. SID LWML Convention begins at COSLHS, E'ville

Saturday, September 17- Cross Country meet at Edwardsville

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall
8:20 p.m. SID LWML Convention begins at COSLHS, E'ville
9:00 a.m. St. John's Golf Tournament at NCCC
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, September 18-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School/High School Bible Class at school
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, September 19-

7:00 p.m. Church Council meets in the school library

Tuesday, September 20-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Ladies' "Salad Supper" in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 21-

8:30 a.m. Upper Grades Chapel service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Kings)

Thursday, September 22- Civil War Day at school

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, September 23- Grandparents Day at school

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Lifeline Screening in the FH
11:20 a.m. Early Dismissal

Saturday, September 24- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, September 25- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School/High School Bible Class at school
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 26-

4:30 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in pastor's office
6:00 p.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting in school library

Tuesday, September 27-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place

Wednesday, September 28-

8:30 a.m. Upper Grades School Chapel service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
4:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Acolyte Training at church (pizza)
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (2nd Kings)

Thursday, September 29-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, September 30- 8th Grade Career Day

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades School Chapel service at church

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.