

The Epistle

DECEMBER 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

"Forgiving Others"

"I have surely heard Ephraim's moaning: 'You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me, and I will return, because you are the LORD my God. Jeremiah 31:18

The Bible tells us: 'Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well...But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours."...Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land"' (Genesis 26:19-22).

This is a great example of forgiveness in action. During a drought, Isaac dug wells and his enemies moved in and claimed them. It wasn't fair, but instead of retaliating, he moved on and dug new wells, and God blessed him greatly. When we refuse to forgive those who have hurt us, we are left feeling incomplete and empty. But when we choose forgiveness, God fills the emptiness we feel.

As long as we share this planet with other imperfect human beings, we won't avoid being hurt. There's no way to avoid it. When the hurt goes deep, it can be really hard to forgive. That does not mean we should go around pretending that nothing is wrong and denying how we really feel.

The first step towards healing is acknowledging our feelings. And Jesus gives us the second step: 'Pray for those who mistreat you' (Luke 6:28). When we do that, something unexpected happens. Our hearts soften and we start to see the other person through God's eyes instead of through the (often misleading) lens of our own raw emotions.

But what if we don't actually want to forgive them? Then here's step three. We need to acknowledge our unwillingness to forgive and ask God to make us willing. Pray, 'Restore me, and I will return.'

What now? If you are struggling to forgive someone, try taking the steps in today's reading: tell God how you are really feeling, pray for the person you haven't forgiven, and ask God to help you take the next steps on the path to forgiving them.

PRAYER: Forgive me my trespasses as I forgive those who trespass against me and forgive me when I can't do so and give me strength to do it as You would have me do.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Of all the "I have a question, Pastor" questions that I get, what to do about one's inability to forgive is the most common. Thus, the devotion above.)

Your Pastors' Ponderings

This may shock you but I am about to use a four-letter word. I will give you time to cover the eyes (or ears, if you are reading this aloud) of children nearby. It is a harsh word that we do not like to use in polite company. The word is.....

Well, I was inspired to share this word with you by an article in the September 13th issue of the Washington Examiner by a British politician name Daniel Hannan that was sent to me. The author cited a 50-year-old psychological study that was done at Stanford University where small children were offered the choice between one marshmallow now or two marshmallows 15 minutes later.

Oh, by the way, have you been impatient to hear what the word is? Have you become anxious or intrigued over the last paragraph of time because I have not shared this four-letter word with you? If so, you may have an issue with what this word demands of you. The word is what our human nature does not like to do, "wait."

Back to the article and the results of the Stanford experiment. The author states, “The willingness to wait turned out to be an extraordinarily good predictor of these children’s life outcomes...There is even some suggestion that researchers, by merely carrying out this test, actually improved its subjects’ prospects in later life.” He goes on to cite differences between this deferred gratification and our current desire to have everything immediately.

So why am I sharing this with you in my December newsletter article? Because we now are in the Church Year season of Advent. These four weeks are all about waiting. While the world around us already is playing Christmas music, shopping Christmas sales, having Christmas parties, and watching Christmas programs (yes, we at St. John’s are doing some of those things also), Advent puts the brakes on a too-soon celebration of Christ’s birth in our worship services.

During Advent we put ourselves into the place of God’s ancient people who waited centuries for God to fulfill His promise of a Messiah. We also remember that we, as God’s New Testament people, are waiting for that Savior, His own Son Jesus Christ, to return for us as He has promised.

Patiently waiting may not be our strong suit this time of year (traffic, lines at store, wanting to unwrap gifts under the tree, etc.). Yet, the Holy Spirit works through the prophetic promises we hear in worship during Advent to give us the patience to wait, first for Christmas to come when we will celebrate Jesus’ birth, and then also for Him to return for us in all of His great glory.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

Greetings in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ,

As I write this letter, it is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another church year. It is hard to believe that in a few short weeks, we will come to the end of another calendar year. Whether we like it or not, time keeps moving along. It doesn’t matter what we say or do, we cannot slow down or stop time.

Yes, we may not be able to slow down or stop time, but there is something we can do. We can enjoy the life we have been provided by God. Yes, we may not know how many weeks, days, or hours of life we have left on this earth. However, we can choose to enjoy ourselves and use the time we have left wisely. Thanksgiving is not the only time of year to give God thanks for all He has provided to us. We thank God for each breath of life that He has given us. We thank God for the family and friends He has placed in our lives. We should all thank God every day for the riches He so freely bestows on us.

As we enter the season of Advent, let us daily remind ourselves of what is important. That during the Season of Advent, we focus on the words: Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy. Each of these words is represented by one of four candles on the exterior of the Advent wreath. We are reminded of these words each week in Worship Service. Each week a new candle is lit on the Advent wreath. As a new candle is lit, we focus on these four words: Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy as words our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ brings to us through the remembrance of His birth.

In celebration of His birth and what it means for us, let us enter the Season of Christmas. Reminded of these four words, let us set aside all differences, opinions, etc., and offer one another signs of Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy this Holiday Season. Let us allow the Lord to use us as His vessels. His vessels to go forth and be shining examples to others of what it means to represent the Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy of Christ to all the people we encounter.

Don’t forget that we are in the Season of Advent. This means there are more opportunities for you to be able to come and join us in worship. We would love to see you.

Merry Christmas and God’s blessings,
Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

November 1 Transfer in of Christopher, Jacquelyn, Ethan, Kadin and Lucas Summers from Trinity Lutheran, Prairie

November 12 Baptism of Colton Brenden Heller

We Bid a Fond Farewell

November 6 Death of Evelyn Muench

November 10 Death of Norma Vogt

Midweek Bible Classes

Our Wednesday evening and Thursday morning midweek Bible classes are on a break until after the first of the year. Our Wednesday Morning (9:30 a.m.) Women (Colossians) will meet.

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.”

December Servers

Flowers: Alverda Rahn and Jacquie Roy
Paraments: Virginia Moeller Cloths: JoAnn Yarbrough

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 ARE ON THE TABLES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

If there is not a box for you and you would like one, please call Leslie in our church office (282-2394).

From the Principal's Pen

Greetings to you this Advent season! As we prepare for the Christ Child, may your days be a blessing as we share the wonderful news with our family and friends.

We congratulate Mrs. Betty Schmitz for being selected as the VFW Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Award winner. We are proud to recognize her for representing our school and community. She is pictured below with St. John's members and VFW officers Larry Ehlers and Clyde Rowold.



We are very thankful for and very proud of the men and women who we remembered and honored during our Veteran's Day Program on November 10. We would like to thank Mayor Susan Harbaugh and Chaplain Mark Sedwick for speaking at our assembly. Our mayor talked about all the freedoms we have that our veterans have won for us and still work hard to secure for us. Our distinguished guest, Chaplain Sedwick, informed us of the duties performed by chaplains in the military and the importance of thanking and helping veterans. Students, teachers, and pastors showed their appreciation for veterans through artwork, acrostic poems, speeches, prayers, and applause.



LCMS Air Force Chaplain Mark Sedwick speaks to St. John's students, faculty and guests at our Veterans Day Assembly.

Both our boys and girls are busy with regular season basketball games and cheerleading. Both our boys and girls have competed in a tournament and each placed well. The boys' varsity team was able to finish 5th in the 16-team tournament hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville. The girls' team finish 3rd in their 8-team tournament hosted by Trinity/St. John's Nashville. Aside from the heat of competition both teams were able to enjoy some Lutheran fellowship and services as both of these tournaments had only Lutheran schools participate and offered worship services after competition on Saturday evening. Please check the schedule for dates and times. Thanks for all who ordered Watkins again this year. The money helps to support the sports uniform account.

We are preparing our Christmas messages with our children. They are working hard to learn their parts in word and song. We will no longer have small services but be able to return to grade group services. Each grade group will share the Christmas story in their unique way. Family members are invited to attend these services the schedule of which is: ● Grades 3-5: November 30 at 8:30 am & 7 pm (school's old gym) ● Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: December 7 at 8:30 am & 7 pm (old gym) ● Daycare & Preschool on December 14 at 8:30 am & 7 pm (old gym) ● Grades 6-8 on December 20 at 8:30 am & 7 pm (church).

Our students once again will be able to shop the Christmas Cottage on December 1 and 2. This is sponsored by the 6th grade class. The funds earned will go towards their Washington DC trip in 2025. Our only early dismissal day for December will be Tuesday, December 20 at 1:45 p.m. with no after-school care that day. May the joy, love, peace of the season be yours. *In Christ, Mr. Justin Palm*

Sunday School

Perfect Attendance for November: Nursery: Alayna Moll, Eliza Schrader, Nolan Kassing, Demi Grohmann; Pre-Kdg: Raelynn Stenzel; Kindergarten: Addy Moll, Jettson Grohmann; 2nd Grade: Brewer Krick, Avery Moll; 4th Grade: Sydney Krick; 5th Grade: Jozlynn Palm; 7th Grade: Sydney Kassing, Molly Kuehn. Thank you for your participation in and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

Our international mission project this year is Bible Books for Families in Ukraine through Lutheran Heritage Foundation. LHF has been translating and printing a variety of Bible storybooks and the Small Catechism for families in Ukraine. Only \$5 provides a Ukrainian family with a Bible storybook, Small Catechism, or other Bible resource in their language! If you want to support this project, please direct your offering to the attention of the Sunday School.

From Your Director of Christian Education

Each year as I begin the process of transforming our home into a Christmas wonderland, I start with our largest tree in the living room. It is my job to assemble the trees (last count there are 13) and put on the lights. Diana and Briana are the decorators. I do put one decoration on the largest tree at home and on the one here at school in my room, "The Christmas Nail." *The Christmas Nail is to be hung on a sturdy branch near the trunk, a branch that will hold such a spike without being noticed by well-wishers dropping by to admire one's tinsel tree. The nail is known only to the home that hangs it. Understood only by the heart that knows its significance. It is hung with the thought the Christmas tree foreshadows the Christ-tree which only He could decorate for us, ornamented with nails as this.*



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We await the commemoration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Jesus came to us as the Babe of Bethlehem. He came in God's perfect timing. He's coming again also in God's perfect timing. The worries of this present age will soon fade away. God's perfect plan of salvation has been revealed.

The Junior Youth will assist with the decorating of the church at noon on December 4. The school children in grades three through five will sing at Garden Place on December 9. The primary Sunday school Christmas service will be on Sunday, December 11 at 6 p.m. in the church. Please join us as we listen to our youngest Sunday school students share the account of Jesus' birth. The school children will lead the Advent services with their Christmas accounts once again in the school's old gym on November 30 (grades 3-5), December 7 (grades K-2), December 14 (Daycare-preschool), and December 20 (grades 6-8 at church).

Our Senior Youth will be involved with the 9 p.m. candlelight service on December 24 as ushers, greeters and acolytes. There will be no Sunday School on December 25.

The Sunday School teachers will not meet on Monday, December 26 as I will be out of town.

As we proceed through the coming month and into a new year, I pray God's peace and comfort is with all of you this blessed season! In His service, *DCE Bill Becker*

Junior Youth

Our Junior Youth (Grades 4-8) will assist with the decorating of church for Christmas starting at noon on December 4. Pizza will be provided! This is a great opportunity for our 7th and 8th graders to earn hours for their Service Activity reports!

Senior Youth

Our Senior Youth is selling Hemme Brother's cheese. We will have it ready before Christmas. We also have jars from the Craft Fair still available. We have Friendship Soup, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Cowboy Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Puppy Chow, and Body Scrubs. Look for us after church services to purchase some or contact Stephanie at 618-967-0804.

Our December meeting will be, Sunday, December 18 with a progressive dinner.

We will assist with the Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Service. Please be at church by 8:45 p.m.

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 a lovely storage box. *Stephanie & Kirk Liefer*



Following late service worship on Sunday, November 20, DCE Bill Becker presented Terry and Susie Harms with a gift from the congregation for their 12 years of service to St. John's as our Senior Youth Counselors. Thank you and God's blessings to them!

Men's Club

St. John's Men's Club will gather on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a pork sausage and sauerkraut dinner. There will be a brief business meeting and Christmas fun and fellowship to follow.

Wurstmarkt Thank You

"Thank you to all those who donated, attended and helped in any way to make our 69th Wurstmarkt a success after that beautiful Saturday snow. We are grateful for our Senior and Junior Youth members who helped us serve 658 people."
St. John's Lutheran Men's Club

Evening Guild News

Evening Guild Christmas Party: We will gather on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a potluck dinner with games and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish. The Evening Guild will provide fried chicken. Husbands and guests are welcome. Devotions will be by Betty Schmitz.

LWML Winter Quarterly and SID Newsletter December issue are available for pick up at the church entrance or at Christmas Party on December 6th.

LWML Scholarships: Our District LWML offers scholarships to students going into full-time church work (pastor, teacher, DCE). Applications are on the website at www.sidlwml.org and must be submitted by March 15.

Quilting 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. December assembly dates are different, meeting the 1st and the 15th of the month. Phone Mary Ann Wegener (618-282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

Custodial Assistance Needed

A part-time paid position is available in our church custodian rotation for an average of 8 - 12 hours every 2 weeks. We need someone for Saturday evening service ONLY and/or Sunday morning services. You will be trained and learn what will be needed to be successful. This involves the opening and closing of the building for worship, lighting, setting temperatures, ringing the bell, and light cleaning. See John Preston or Pastor.

Financial Need For Medical Treatment

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Ashlynn Crafton is battling leukemia. We can provide some financial assistance for her treatments at her GoFundMe account <https://gofund.me/3579ba87> or at an account set up with Buena Vista National Bank Account #272745. Thank you for helping her during this difficult time.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

Worship Greeters

Sat. Dec. 3	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Dec. 4	8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. Dec. 10	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Dec. 11	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel
Sat. Dec. 17	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Dec. 18	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. Dec. 26	3 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller 9 p.m. Senior Youth
Sun. Dec. 25	9 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele
Sat. Dec. 31	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Jan. 1	10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf <i>We need two people or one couple to serve as greeter for the Sunday late service and the first and third Saturdays!</i>

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Dec 3	5 p.m. Colt Hess
Sun. Dec. 4	8 a.m. Ian Moll 10:30 a.m. Olivia Candler
Sat. Dec. 10	5 p.m. Case Hess
Sun. Dec. 11	8 a.m. Lilly Meyer 10:30 a.m. Macie Brown 6:00 p.m. Sydney Kassing
Sat. Dec. 17	5 p.m. Loreli Aubuchon
Sun. Dec. 18	8 a.m. Jack Kennedy 10:30 a.m. Molly Kuehn
Sat. Dec. 24	3 p.m. Milla Neff 5 p.m. Addy Schloemann 9 p.m. Senior Youth
Sun. Dec. 25	9 a.m. Mr. Bill Becker
Sat. Dec. 31	5 p.m. Brian Liefer
Sun. Jan. 1	10:30 a.m. Colin Korando <i>If you are not able to serve when scheduled, please switch with another acolyte and contact our office with the change. Thanks!</i>

High School Bible Class- Mr. Becker's Classroom

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

LCMS Foundation

Sharon was sitting in her pastor's office with tears streaming down her face. Her husband had just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Sharon was at a loss on how to handle all the responsibilities of the household that now rested on her shoulders. Her pastor asked her if their estate plan was in place. She hesitated and then said, "We always said we were going to get that done. But now his mental capacity makes it difficult to handle." The pastor shared God's Word with her and they prayed. But both realized the challenging road that lay ahead.

It is faithful stewardship of God's resources to be intentional about putting our estate plans in place. Parents with young children should have a minor's trust and appoint a guardian in case something should happen. Throughout the years, the estate plans need to be updated to accommodate changes in family composition and life situations. When retirement comes along and investments change, it is time for another review. Those pivotal moments of life should act as a catalyst to move us to intentional action.

Many things can consume our attention. Certainly, the holidays will do so this month as we celebrate God's gift of Jesus to us. Yet a month like this, as we cherish family and church, is a great time to pray to the Lord for resolve to get busy after the first of the year to quit putting things off. No matter how much we fear talking about what may seem to be uncomfortable planning, the gift of faith given to us, linked to eternity, gives us the confidence to plan. In faith, we can be joyful about planning the blessings of our estate plans to bless the family we love and the ministries we care about. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor Scott Radden can help. Contact him at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.

What Is A Steward? *From LCMS Stewardship Anxiety vs. Trust*

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father

in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matthew 6:25-33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did He descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

Worship Calendar for DECEMBER 2022

Services in italics will be held in the school's old gym.

Sat/Sun	3/4	2 nd Sunday in Advent
Wed	7	8:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. <i>Grades K-2 Christmas</i>
Thu	8	*3 p.m. Holy Communion Service
Sat/Sun	10/11	3 rd Sunday in Advent
Sun	11	6 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service
Wed	14	8:30 a.m./7 p.m. <i>Early Childhood Christmas</i>
Sat/ Sun	17/18	4 th Sunday in Advent
Tue	20	8:30 a.m./7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Christmas
Sat	24	*3 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion
Sat	24	*9 p.m. Christmas Eve Com./Candlelight
Sun	25	*9 a.m. Christmas Day Communion
Sat	31	*5 p.m. New Year's Eve Communion
Sunday, Jan. 1		*10:30 a.m. New Year's Day Communion
Thursday, Jan. 5		*3 p.m. Epiphany Eve Holy Communion

December Church and School Calendar

Thursday, December 1- *Christmas Cottage at school*
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
6:00 p.m. Boys' A & C Basketball home vs. Coulterville
Friday, December 2- *Christmas Cottage at school*
Girls' basketball A team tourney at Edwardsville
Boys' basketball C team tourney at Red Bud Catholic
Saturday, December 3-
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (Proverbs)
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
SUNDAY, December 4-
8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
Noon Decorate Church for Christmas
Monday, December 5-
3:15 p.m. School faculty meeting in the library
6:00 p.m. Boys' basketball home vs. ICS
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room
Tuesday, December 6-
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Ruma
6:00 p.m. Girls' A & B basketball home vs. Steeleville
Wednesday, December 7-
8:30 a.m. Kdg.- Grade 2 Christmas Service in the old gym
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
7:00 p.m. Kdg- Grade 2 Christmas Service in the old gym
8:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education in school library
Thursday, December 8- *School Picture retake day*
3:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Church
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
6:00 p.m. Girls' basketball away at Valmeyer
6:00 p.m. Men's Club Christmas gathering in the Fellowship Hall
Friday, December 9-
C Team basketball tournaments: Boys' at RBC; Girls' at RBL
Saturday, December 10-
9:00 a.m. Elder Basket deliveries
5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, December 11- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m. Nursery-Grade 1 Sunday School Christmas Service
Monday, December 12-
6:00 p.m. Girls' & Boys' C team basketball home vs. St. James
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room
Tuesday, December 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
6:00 p.m. Boys' A & B basketball home vs. New Athens
Wednesday, December 14-
8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Christmas Service in old gym
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
7:00 p.m. Early Childhood Christmas Service in old gym
Thursday, December 15-
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
5:30 p.m. Girls' A & B basketball away at TSJ/ILS
Friday, December 16- 10 a.m. Grades 3-5 sing at Garden Place
Saturday, December 17-
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in our Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
SUNDAY, December 18-
8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)
??? p.m. Senior Youth Progressive Dinner
Monday, December 19-
6:00 p.m. Boys' A & B basketball away at Marissa
6:00 p.m. Girls' A & C basketball home vs. SPPCS
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room
7:00 p.m. Church Council meets in the school library
Tuesday, December 20- *End of 2nd Quarter*
8:30 a.m. Grades 6-8 Road to Bethlehem at church
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
1:48 p.m. Early school dismissal
7:00 p.m. Grades 6-8 Road to Bethlehem at church
Wednesday, December 21-
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
Friday, December 23- *Office Closed*
Saturday, December 24-
3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Candlelight Service
SUNDAY, December 25- *No Sunday School or Bible Classes*
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
Monday, December 26- *Office Closed*
Tuesday, December 27-
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place
Saturday, December 31-
5:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion Service
Sunday, January 1, 2023- *No early service or Sunday School*
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Attention Coffee Drinkers

We are now part of Community Coffee's program, "Cash for Schools." By clipping the proof of purchase off packages of ground coffee and/or K cups our school earns rewards. You can drop off proof of purchases at the school office. Thank you for participating in this program to benefit our school!

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.

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 Fellowship Hall.