

Fourth Sunday in Advent

St. John's Lutheran Church

December 17-18, 2022

5 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Red Bud,

Illinois PRELUDE: (*Saturday*) "Carol of the Bells" *Bell Choir*

(*Sunday*) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *arranged by Rudolph Moser*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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Divine Service Four (pages 203ff.)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: (*please stand if you are able*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, **C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we

C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (please be seated)

(Saturday) **ANTHEM:** "Emmanuel, Savior of the Nations"

Bell Choir

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

THE EPISTLE READING:

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all

those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand if you are able) **ALLELUIA and VERSE:** page 205

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

(page 206 or inside back cover of the hymnal)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according

to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN OF THE DAY: 356 “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

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SERMON: “The Baby’s Name Is Jesus” Matthew 1:18-25

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(please stand if you are able)*

(Each petition ends, “Lord, in Your mercy,” and we respond, “hear our prayer.”)

HEALING AND COMFORT: Kenneth Koester, Donald Fausz, Stanley Langrehr, Clyde Rowold, Ruth Hecht, Rick Horrell, Sherry Winkelmann, Randy Miller, Rhonda Schaefer, Susie Harms, Marcy Watters, Zac Carnahan, Ashlynn Crafton; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Susan Sochowski, Ava Kern, Jim Arrington, Gary Hollmann, Delores Stirnaman, Victor Jacobs. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: *(Please call with names.)* Army- Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Brandon Voss, Adrienne Vallett, Easton Lucht, Ethan Summers, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner, Jessica DeMarco, Benjamin Boeder, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan, Tyler Wahlman, Gavin Roche-Voss; Navy- Carl Muehler; Air Force- Gage Baldwin, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Keenan Turnure, Austin Grohmann; National Guard: Jeremiah Brandt

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL: Fire/EMS- Jerre Atchison, Tom Beshoar, Kevin Biffar, Breanna Bingel, Savannah Cowell, Chad Crafton, Steven Falkenhain, Chad Grohmann, Curt Guebert, Jason Guebert, Scot Heller, Blake Koppel, Chad Langrehr, Matt Liefer, Kevin Miller, Alan Piel, Jason Rippelmeyer, Brad Stechmesser, John Valentine, Mike VanDorn, Tanner Winkelman; Police- Abigail Browne, Ralph Sievers, Chris Hewitt, Nick Mounts, Jason Palm, Doug Brennan, Jason Roscow, Aaron Runge.

+those who mourn: family of Ellery Byer who died in the Lord Monday, Christian memorial Thursday

+ministry of Lutheran schools including Christ Our Savior High School and St. John's Elementary

OFFERTORY: *(sung; LSB 786)*

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your ho-ly pur-pose to ful-fill.
To-kens of love and pledg-es they shall be
That our whole life is of-fered to Your will.
We give our minds to un-der-stand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great de-sign;
Hearts with the flame of Your own love a-blaze—
Thus for Your glo-ry all our pow'rs com-bine.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: page 208ff.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we

commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

Preface

P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**
 P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them to the Lord.**
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (*sung*)

**Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho-san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;
 Tru-ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come Lord, Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
 kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord and The Pax Domini

P ...The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

- 1 O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world a-way;
O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mer-cy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Je-sus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world a-way;
Have mer-cy on us, Je- sus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Lord Jesus, I pray You to make me, unworthy as I am, worthy through Your grace; so that Your body and Your blood may be for me a strengthening of my faith, a proof of my forgiveness, a closer union with You and Your people, an increase of holiness, the basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of everlasting life. Amen.)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)

(Saturday) Anthem: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Bell Choir

357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap-pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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359 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

332 "Savior of the Nations Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

(Please stand if you are able)

8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity. A-men.

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NUNC DIMITTIS: "Song of Simeon" page 211 *(please stand)*

**O Lord, now let Your ser-vant De-part in heav'n-ly peace,
 For I have seen the glo-ry Of Your re-deem-ing grace:
 A light to lead the Gen-tiles Un-to Your ho-ly hill,
 The glo-ry of Your peo-ple, Your cho-sen Is-ra-el.**

**All glo-ry to the Fa-ther, All glo-ry to the Son,
All glo-ry to the Spir-it, For-ev-er Three in One;
For as in the be-gin-ning, Is now, shall ev-er be,
God's tri-une name re-sound-ing Through all e-ter-ni-ty.**

Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION: page 212

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"



1	Once	He	came	in	bles -	ing,	All	our	sins	re -
2	Now	He	gent -	ly	leads	us;	With	Him -	self	He
3	Soon	will	come	that	hour		When	with	might -	y
4	Come,	then,	O	Lord	Je -	sus,	From	our	sins	re -



dress -	ing;	Came	in	like -	ness	low -	ly,
feeds	us	Pre -	ci-ous	food	from	heav -	en,
pow -	er	Christ	will	come	in	splen -	dor
lease	us.	Keep	our	hearts	be -	liev -	ing,



Son	of	God	most	ho -	ly;	Bore	the	cross	to
Pledge	of	peace	here	giv -	en,	Man -	na	that	will
And	will	judg -	ment	ren -	der,	With	the	faith -	ful
That	we,	grace	re -	ceiv -	ing,	Ev -	er	may	con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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POSTLUDE: "People, Look East"

arranged by Steven Wentz

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This Week With Our Lord, December 18-25, 2022

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)
 5:00 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 at home vs. SPPCS
 6:00 p.m. Choir Caroling starts at Red Bud Care Center
 7:00 p.m. Church Council meets in the school library
 7:45 p.m. Nominating Committee meets in the school library

Tuesday, December 20- End of 2nd Quarter

8:30 a.m. Grades 6-8 Road to Bethlehem Service at church
 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
 1:48 p.m. Early school dismissal
 2:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
 7:00 p.m. Grades 6-8 Road to Bethlehem Service 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

Friday, December 23- Office Closed

Saturday, December 24-

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service; Acolyte: Milla Neff
 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Acolyte: Addy Schloemann
 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

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Worship: 332; Communion: 89; Adults: 26+; Youth/Sunday School: NR

Sunday School Christmas Service: 185

Early Childhood Christmas Service: AM- 300; PM- 350

And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: LCMS Stewardship Resources

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN, WHATE’ER THE GIFT MAY BE:

We join together in the grace of giving. 12/11- General: \$13,746; School: \$495; Automatic Giving: \$5,360. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

OFFERINGS PRESENTED:

Our worship offerings still will be gathered in the plates by the sanctuary doors. An usher will bring those plates forward during the Offertory to be placed on the altar. If you forgot to place your offering in a plate before worship as you entered the sanctuary, you can do so as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:

To have flowers in worship please call the office at 282-2394 to notify the committee and to have proper thanks in the bulletin of those donating.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Sunday ABC meets from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with refreshments provided. We continue our Bible survey with a focus on Paul’s Letter to Titus.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

+We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John’s member Robert Burgdorf who died in the Lord on Friday, December 9 at the age of 79 years and received his Christian burial here on Monday.

+We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John’s member Ellery Byer who died in the Lord Monday and received a Christian memorial service here on Thursday.

+Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

PORTALS OF PRAYER:

The next quarter’s issue of *Portals of Prayer*, our daily devotional booklet, is available in the racks by the church’s front door. Sonshine Visitation members, please take a copy for those whom you visit.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023:

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2023 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one for yourself and would like to have one, please contact Leslie in our church office at 282-2394. Thank you!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS:

Two types of Advent devotions are available on the tables in the entryway. The one from LCMS Office of Worship is meant for brief use at the family table. The other devotional booklet is from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASSES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Wednesday Women meet at 9:30 a.m. Both Wednesday evening and Thursday morning classes now are on a break until the first week of January. Men's Bible Breakfast next meets on Saturday, January 7 to study "Proverbs: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Living."

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT THIS YEAR:

Our international mission project is Bible Books for Families in Ukraine through Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Only \$5 provides a Ukrainian family with a Bible storybook, Small Catechism, or other Bible resource in their language! To support this project, please direct your offering to the attention of the Sunday School.

SCRIP CARDS:

The holiday season is quickly approaching. If you plan to give the gift of gift cards this year consider shopping through our scrip program. Every card purchased earns money for our school. Cards are available for hundreds of retailers and restaurants including Amazon, Walmart, Texas Roadhouse and many more. Orders can be placed by stopping by or calling the office. Select cards are kept on hand but are sold on a first come first serve basis.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES:

Tue. Dec. 20, 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Christmas
*Sat. Dec. 24, *3 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion*
*Sat. Dec. 24, *9 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Candlelight*
*Sun. Dec. 25, *9 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion (no BC or SS)*
*Sat. Dec. 31 *5 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion*
*Sun. Jan. 1 *10:30 a.m. New Year's Day Communion (no Sunday School)*
*Thu. Jan. 5 *3 p.m. Epiphany Eve Holy Communion*

MEN'S CLUB GIFTS:

Our recent Wurstmarkt was just short of \$5300 in profits. This will be distributed between St. John's Senior Youth for their help and our congregation for our use of the facility. We also are supporting the ministry of KFUEO radio, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Bible Translators and the Concordia Seminary Food Bank. Thank you for your help in our support of these ministries.

FINANCIAL NEED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT:

St. John's member and Red Bud High School senior Ashlynn Crafton has been diagnosed with 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 considering how you can help during this difficult time.

CHOIR CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY:

On Monday, December 19th, the choir will go Christmas caroling! We will start at Red Bud Care Center (meet in the lobby at 6 pm), make our way to Garden Place (around 6:45 pm), and end at Ruma R&R (around 7:15 pm). Afterwards, we will have our Christmas party at Market On Main! Carolers are asked to bring an appetizer/dessert. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us! Christmas carol books will be provided! Red Bud Care Center is currently requiring visitors to wear masks as there have been outbreaks of several different illnesses. Please keep this in mind.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Red Bud High School senior and St. John's member and day school alumnus Mitchell Fleming has been named an Illinois State Scholar. St. John's school alumna Anna Wolter also has been named an Illinois State Scholar.

THE WINTER ISSUE of *LifeDate* from Lutherans for Life is on the tables in the entryway for you to take with you.

CUSTODIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED:

+St. John's Lutheran Daycare is in search of an individual to do daily cleaning and small maintenance tasks at the center. This is a part time position and hours are flexible. For more information please call Amanda at 618-282-3873 or by email at amandaf@stjohnsredbud.org

+A part-time paid position is available in our church custodian rotation for about 8 - 12 hours every 2 weeks. We need someone for Saturday evening service ONLY and/or Sunday morning services. Trained provided. 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.

+Our school seeks a maintenance/janitorial aid/substitute to work with our two custodians on days when school is not in session to work larger projects as well as day-to-day cleaning and also to work as-needed when the other custodians are on vacation. Please inquire by calling the school office or stopping by Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We look forward to working with you!

"THE WARMING TREE":

Our school lobby tree needs some Christmas cheer and so do those in need. Help us "warm-up" the Christmas season by bringing in new or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, coats, and socks to the school lobby. You can hang them on the tree or place them underneath. Donations will be accepted through December 21st. All donations will benefit local children in need!

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CDs AVAILABLE:

+Joan Voges offers us music CDs from her Lilyfields Collection for a donation to our school ministry. Copies are on a table in the Fellowship Hall.

+Former St. John's member Bryan Perdue has CD music available on the table in the Fellowship Hall for a \$10 donation to St. John's debt reduction.

ATTENTION COFFEE DRINKERS:

We are in 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!

SENIOR YOUTH FUNDRAISER:

Our Senior Youth is selling greeting cards (all occasions) for \$1. Cards are on display in the Fellowship Hall. A money box for payment (honor system) 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.

PARISH NURSE NOTE: from LCMS *Better Health*

When We Have a Cold- Don't skimp on sleep! This could reduce the function of the immune system and delay in recovery. However, sleep is actually more important for cold prevention than for recovery.

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

Vickie Heller is our Prayer Chain Coordinator. To serve in the Prayer Chain or if you have a prayer request, please contact her at dvheller@htc.net or 618/521-7417. Call our office to add someone to our worship prayers. *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective* (James 5:16).

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Red Bud Care Center: Alice Smith, Jody Winkelmann; Ruma R&R: Fern Schnepel; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace: June Lawrence and Jean Menke; Bria-Columbia: David Burgdorf; Randolph County Nursing Home: Donald Kueker

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

Kathryn Chunn, Elaine Guebert, Margaret Hanebutt, Dorothy Heizer, Omer/Neva Liefer, Vernon Muench, Lorine Reinhardt, Paul Schrieber, Arlin/Helen Winkelman, Carl/Flo Zschiegner

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Wil Guebert, Don/Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Kenneth/Geri Koester, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttmann, Edna Moeller, Viola Muench, Harold Thies

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/18- Joan Wiegand, Kyle Winkelman; **12/20-** Jacob Moll, Jeremy Collins; **12/21-** Madison Falkenhain, Maggie Brown, Ava Clifford, Langston Wiegard; **12/22-** Addalyn Schloemann; **12/23-** Nikolas Stechmesser, Olivia Schluter; **12/24-** Camden Moll. *Please call with corrections!*

KFUO AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUO Radio AM850 & kfu.org, a media ministry of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM850 & kfu.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. You can find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUO.org, Facebook, **Twitter**, and **Instagram**. This week on KFUO and kfu.org: Enjoy music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, hear history and theology of Hymns for Advent on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), and study Exodus 28-32 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.). The Twelve

Days of Christmas begins December 24 through January 8! Hear special Christmas programming during this time. Regular programming resumes Jan. 9!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: *from Lutheran Bible Translators*

Readings for the year are on the tables in the entryway. December 18- Isaiah 34:1-35:10; December 19- Isaiah 40:1-17; December 20- Isaiah 40:18-41:10; December 21- Isaiah 42:1-25; December 22- Isaiah 43:1-24; December 23- Isaiah 43:25-44:20; December 24- Isaiah 44:21-13-25.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

Peace Lutheran Church in Lemay, Missouri invites you to Christmas at Peace this Sunday at 3 p.m. with a concert featuring a 40-piece orchestra and special guest soloists Patrick and Lea Zelaya. Under the direction of Peace's Director of Music Burnell Hackman this concert of sacred Christmas music will prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. Peace's Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jon Furgeson will deliver Christmas greetings.

LIFE THOUGHTS: *(from Lutherans for Life)* www.lutheransforlife.org

Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

LCMS FOUNDATION:

Nearly half of American adults have never created a will. We can provide many excuses. However, the Lord did not place things into your life for someone else to manage. He has chosen you to do that. You will find great joy and satisfaction in putting a plan together, seeing how God is working through you to love and bless. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott Radden, Gift Planning Counselor at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.

ISSUES, ETC.:

Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's interview topics include: The Movie "Avatar," Marriage Enrichment, Looking Forward to Christmas Sunday, Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and more. You can tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE, 850 AM in St. Louis. You can also listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL- 618/853-7300

FFA Fundraiser: The COS FFA is selling Stonie's Snack Sticks. Contact the school, a COS FFA member or Lisa Luebkekmann to order.

22nd Annual Trivia Night: This year's "Decades" Trivia Night & Silent Auction is January 20 at 7 p.m. in our gym. Adults \$15 ea., 5th-8th grade students \$6 ea., and 9th-12th grade \$10 ea. with a limit of eight people to a table. Reserve your table by calling 618-853-7300. Table

proceeds will support Prom and Post-Prom at *COS*. The silent auction will benefit the next Mission Trip.

School Hours: Office hours Dec. 19- 30 will be Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The office will be closed Dec. 23, 26, and Jan. 2. School resumes Jan. 3.

St. John's Lutheran Church – LCMS 508 Bloom Street, Red Bud, Illinois

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087
 E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org
 Senior Pastor Mark Nebel 618/237-5802 or home 618/282-3050
 Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741
 Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103
 Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055
 Director of Christian Education & School Librarian – Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958
 Secretaries – Mrs. Leslie Froemling and Mrs. Sara Shepherd
 Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804
 Matthew Foster, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 618/853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Cindy Steele Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz
 Aides: Nola Jean Vallett, Shawn DeRousse, and Elizabeth Schaefer
 First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer
 Third Grade and Junior Youth – Stephanie Valleroy
 Fourth Grade and Before/After School Care – Cindy Nebel
 Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Judy Stephens
 Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel
 Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan
 Eighth Grade Homeroom: Bill Becker Athletic Director – Scott Voss
 School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm
 Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Megan Diercks, Amy Williams, Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck, Brittney Eichholz, Madison Shields, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Eileen Seibold, Melissa Schilling, Kaleigh Johnston, Kaitlin Schmitz, Haley Ehler, Hailey Guebert, Courtney Schaefer, Brittany Smith, Callen Reitz, Kailyn Moeller, Kendall Williams, Madison Falkenhain, Ashlynn Crafton, and Geraldine Thompson

Church Council

Chairman: Kevin Liefer Vice-Chairman: Michael DeRousse
 Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Ray Wagner Board of Finance: Jill Gross
 Elder Chair: Eric Fritsche Parish Education Chair: Karen Liefer
 Trustee Chair: John Preston Estate Fund Chair: Brian Guebert
 Lutheran High School Board: Kathy Valleroy and Rebekah Liefer

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel Organist/Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak
 Lectors: (8 a.m.) Seminarian Lucas Frauenhoff; (10:30 a.m.) DCE Bill Becker
 Greeters: (5 p.m.) Virginia and Mark Moeller; (8 a.m.) Kalin and Kathy Liefer;
 (10:30 a.m.) Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
 Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Loreli Aubuchon; (8 a.m.) Jack Kennedy; (10:30 a.m.) Molly Kuehn
 Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: JoAnn Yarbrough
 Flower Servers: Alverda Rahn and Jacquie Roy Paraments: Virginia Moeller