

The Epistle

FEBRUARY 2023

**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 "Teach Your Children"

Keep His decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the

LORD your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 4:40

As a parent, you're constantly transmitting your values to your children, so do these:

1) *Let them see you pray.* Help them to understand that prayer is how we build a lifelong friendship with God. And they will need His friendship when you're not around to help them. God said, ***'When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them' (Psalm 91:15).***

2) *Show them what God is like.* Your child's concept of God is formed by you. Whether you're loving and protective or distant and cold, they will grow up understanding God through the interactions they have with you. Some examples are that God is never too busy to listen, He constantly tells us He loves us, and He is never abusive. Getting the idea?

3) *Help them to see God in others.* When kids are encouraged to see God at work in their own lives, they

begin to discern Him at work in the lives of others too. When that happens, they will value and respect others and be valued and respected in return. That will help them to be secure and successful in life.

4) *Don't send them to church; take them.* Children need to believe – and belong. Teach them that just like a limb dies that's disconnected from a body, we die spiritually unless we are connected to a local church. 'Belonging' means they will always have a place to go. The Bible says, ***'Obey his laws...that things will go well for you and your children' (Deuteronomy 4:40).*** Helping your kids to find the right path is the greatest gift you can give them.

PRAYER- Heavenly Father, no matter what age I am or my children or those children I am close to are, help me reflect You to them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

The hours of daylight are slowly getting longer. While winter has a while to go, and I expect we will get hit with a snowstorm or two in February, we can tell that spring is on its way.

That also means that the church year season of Lent is approaching. This word comes from an old English word that means, "to lengthen." From Ash Wednesday through Good Friday the Lenten season reminds us of our sins for which we need a Savior and takes us to the cross of Christ where we witness our salvation in the suffering and death of God's own and only Son in our place.

Some observe this season by denying themselves something they like as a small way to imitate the suffering of Christ for us. This can be a positive practice or it can inflate our spiritual ego, giving us an opportunity to pat ourselves on the back for what sacrificial people we are.

A better observance of Lent is to add something to our spiritual life. We offer midweek Lenten worship services on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be offered in both services on February 22, Ash Wednesday. The theme for these services this year is "Seven Songs That Say I'm Sorry: The Penitential Psalms."

We also will provide extra devotional booklets for the Lenten season for your personal use. Besides this extra time with our Lord in His Word and prayer, what can we do in service to others, those whose needs God will place before us during Lent? We have elderly members who might enjoy a visit from you. Our Sunshine Visitation team will meet on February 25 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss this service opportunity.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

It is hard to believe that a month has passed since we celebrated the Birth of Our Lord. A glorious time of year. A time to stop and take a break from the hustle and bustle of life. A time to think about what the Birth of Jesus Christ means for us as Christians.

Unfortunately, as quickly as it comes, it passes just as quickly. Now, as the month of January is coming to a close, we look forward to another month. But not just any month. No, towards the end of February, we reach an important date, Ash Wednesday. A day when we can join together in worship as Christians celebrating our Lord. Many Christians on this day receive the Imposition of Ashes, that is, the sign of the cross, made with ashes, on our forehead. This is a sign to represent our mortality and sorrow for our sins. And we hear those familiar words, "remember you are dust, and to dust, you shall return."

This is a time to remember that we are special. We remember that we were created by God in a much different way than all of creation. He formed us from the dust of the land and breathed into us the breath of life ... His breath. We were also created in His very image. So, no matter who we are or what we do, we all have something in common. We are all special.

Life is a precious gift from God. Yes, life will one day come to an end and we will have to account for our days before our Lord and Savior. Have you been treating your fellow man as God would want? Have you spread God's Word to help build His Church? Have you tried to help those in need or just turned your back on everyone?

Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a somber time of year because we know how the story ends. We know that Christ, our very Savior, endured a brutal beating. He suffered and died on a cross. He did it all to save us from sin, death, and the devil. He did it out of complete selfishness.

This Lenten Season I invite you to consider doing something different. If you have not been to church for worship, then make it a priority to give back to Jesus a portion of the time that He has provided to you. If you have not been kind and loving to others, now is a great time to start. If you have been ignoring those in need, maybe it's time you open your eyes, pay attention to their needs, and do something special for them.

Yes, this is a somber time of year for us as Christians. However, we can change it into a time of renewal. A time to start anew and make things different. To God be the glory forever and ever.

Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

January 14 Baptism of Leighten Rae McCarthy,
daughter of Nathan and Emma (Schild) McCarthy
January 15 Baptism of Katie Jane Pollard,
daughter of Justin and Courtney (Nichols) Pollard
January 21 Baptism of Briggs Michael Henry,
son of Travis and Mariah (Isaacs) Henry
January 22 Baptism of Eleanor Lynn Liefer,
daughter of Kory and Natalie (Ruebke) Liefer

Midweek Bible Classes

Our midweek Bible classes are Wednesday Morning (9:30 a.m.) Women (Colossians); Wednesday 7:30 p.m. (1st Chronicles) and Thursday 7:15 a.m. (Matthew). The Wednesday evening class will break from February 22 (Ash Wednesday) through April 5.

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

February Servers

Flowers: Diana and Briana Becker
Paraments: Carol Turner Cloths: Joan Ruwald

From the Principal's Pen

Christmas break was a wonderful time to celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth and reconnect, relax, and rejuvenate. That being said, we returned to school on January 4 looking forward to opportunities to serve the congregation and community by spreading the the gospel message.

As we entered into January, we prepared for many basketball tournaments. Our girls' and boys' basketball teams both participated in the Holy Cross Collinsville's 7th grade tournament with our young men bringing home the Consolation Championship and our young ladies finish third in their side of the tournament. Since then, our girls have ended their season and have been preparing for their volleyball season. The boys have been busy with the Okaw Valley Conference Tournament and All Lutheran Tournament; respectively they finished 1st in the Conference Tournament and lost by two in the Championship Game at the ALT in Steeleville. Most recently they have been competing in the SIJHSAA regional tournament which they earned the right for St. John's to host by having the best season record in our regional. They were able to advance to the Championship in this tournament and have earned a berth in the SIJHSAA State basketball tournament at Rend Lake.



The 8th graders line up in the new gym lobby before the final boys' home game. (L-R): Lucas McCarthy, Liam Quintin, Landon Kilpatrick, Ian Moll, Kendall Crafton, Blayton Sutton, Landon Ruebusch, Brodie Stenzel, and Brayden Schlesinger.

Aside from sports January has been a very busy month as we, the St. John's Lutheran Board for Parish Education, Pastor Nebel, Mrs. Steele and I, try and prepare for the 2022-2023 school year by working to fill teacher vacancies. We have been blessed to find ten possible candidates for our preschool position in less than fourteen days. Much of our energy since then has been focused on interviewing candidates and we are blessed to have so many good interviewees.

However, we continue to look have a need for candidates for our junior high school 8th grade position focusing on math and science instruction; the position has been posted for fourteen months with only one candidate's response. Please pray that God give us wisdom so that we may choose the best candidate for our preschool position and pray that God puts it on peoples' hearts to consider our junior high position.

As we end January, we celebrate Lutheran Schools Week! Our theme for the week was "Creating Disciples for Life" and each day we had a different focus: Monday-Making CHILDREN Disciples for Life; Tuesday-Making Families Disciples for Life; Wednesday-Making Disciples for Life in the Church; Thursday-Celebrating Disciples who are making Disciples for Life; and Friday-Making Disciples of ALL NATIONS for Life. Each day we gathered as a whole school in the new gym for announcements, prayers, pledges, devotions and song. It was great having all our youngest students leading us in familiar songs the students sang when they were in the younger grades. The devotions were led by students in the upper grades. As in the past, each day we have dressed in special clothes: Monday-Comfy Cozy Day; Tuesday-Country or Country Club; Wednesday-Patriotic Dress, Thursday-Sports/Jersey Day or dress like a celebrity; and Friday-Neon Day or 100th day wear multiples.

Our eighth graders have been very participatory in helping to create our Lutheran Schools week activities and themes and are very much looking forward to helping as

"teachers" in classrooms. The high light of this week, for me, was a portion of our school's talent show when six young men sang "Jesus Loves Me" in front of the entire school. This led to a hymn sing that was enthusiastically participated in by nearly all the students; what a blessing!!! Each day there have been self-care donations items suggested for students to bring into school. Our gifts will go to local groups that will help families in need. We are so blessed by our Lutheran school and give thanks that we can celebrate with other Lutheran schools in the joy of sharing the good news of Jesus being our Savior!

The Kindergarten class held their 100-day celebration on January 27. We encouraged all of our students to join in the day by wearing their Kindergarten 100-day t-shirt; or holding it up in front of them in the case of some of our junior high students. We are happy to be able to celebrate this event without restrictions and welcome guests back! The fun activities make the day very memorable for our students and parents.

The month of February will keep us busy. February brings us Valentine's Day and our students and faculty are generous in sharing the love of Christ with others. Please remember your loved ones at home! We have an 11:20 a.m. early dismissal day on February 17 and will celebrate Presidents' Day with no school on February 20. On February 7 we will have a Mad Science of St. Louis assembly at 1:00 p.m. We were able to bring this event back last year and look forward to have another science display this year.



*Perfect Church Attendance for the Second Quarter
First Row (l-r): Emma Guebert, Colae Kaiser, Aiden Arbeiter, and Sutton Jones; Second Row (l-r): Brian Liefer, Mallory Arbeiter, Ella Cowell, and Colin Korando*

On February 15 we will host the "St. John's Lutheran School Open House". We cordially invite all congregation and family members to visit us on this night from 4-7 p.m. We will have preschool and kindergarten preregistration this evening as well as snacks in classrooms and soup and hotdogs in the school gymnasium. Food will be served from 5-7 p.m. (Flyer Link) Our boys will continue to play

basketball and will attend the tournament in Peoria the weekend on February 17. The girls have a very active schedule of volleyball with tournaments at all levels on various weekends. Please watch the church bulletin, Cougar Tracks, and athletics calendar on our school's website for dates and times.

We are blessed to be a blessing, Mr. Justin Palm

Sunday School

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

I found two hymns in Lutheran Service Book that begin with the word "love." Hymn # 706 *Love in Christ Is Strong and Living* has the word love at the beginning of each of its three stanzas. Stanza one begins "Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done." Stanza two continues "Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ's humility, Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, reaching out in charity." Stanza three finishes "Love in Christ abides forever, fainting not when ills attend; Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life's end." Thankfully as Christians we get to daily celebrate the love Christ has for us! Through word and sacrament ministry we are strong and living!

I'm finding the school year quickly transitioning from the holiday happenings to the somberness that the Lenten season brings. The Senior Youth have agreed to help serve and clean up once again for the Lenten meals that will start with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Watch the bulletin for the menus for each of the meals. I'm working on finishing up the itinerary for the Eighth Grade trip in April. I also am looking ahead the dates for VBS. "God's Living Water" will be June 12-16. More information on this to follow!

May God surround you all with an extra measure of love and peace this month. In God's loving service,

DCE Bill Becker

High School Bible Class- Mr. Becker's Classroom

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



Pastor and Cindy Nebel pose with Haydn Albert, a student displaying tremendous good taste in football franchises on Comfy/Cozy Day of National Lutheran Schools Week.

Men's Club

St. John's Men's Club will gather next on Thursday, February 9, at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments are provided!



St. John's member and new Circuit Court Judge Jeremy Walker spoke to a combined gathering of Men's Club and Evening Guild members in our Fellowship Hall on January 12. He is pictured with Men's Club Chairman Gerald Hanebutt and Evening Guild President Sharon Guebert.

Evening Guild News

Evening Guild Gathering is on Fat Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions will be by Marie Voges under the theme, "Mardi Gras of Mighty Grace?" Hostesses: Donna Wetzel, chairman, Janet Braun, Carolyn Cooper, and Brenda Gilpatrick.

Mission Quilt Project: We assembled and tied a record number of quilts in January! Now they need to be hemmed. They are stacked in the corner of Room #2 in the Fellowship Hall. Please hem by hand or sewing machine and return them to the quilting room. The mission committee will deliver quilts to Orphan Grain Train on February 7.

SID LWML Spring Retreat is Saturday, March 4, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carbondale. The day-long retreat will be conducted by the district YWRs. The cost of \$20 includes a meal catered by 17th Street BBQ. Register by February 20th using a registration form from www.sidlwml.org

Quilting schedule for February is Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon in the quilting room.

Baldwin Sight Center: Volunteer your time to help make large print books at the Baldwin Center on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of February. Call Mary Ann Wegener (618-282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

LWML Scholarships: SID LWML offers scholarships to students going into full-time church work (pastors, teachers, deaconess, DCE). Applications on the website at www.sidlwml.org must be submitted by March 15, 2023.

Senior Youth

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

Junior Youth

Look for upcoming information about a Valentine's Day activity for our grades 4-8 members and school students.

Baby Bottle Coins for Life Network

We will collect the full bottles for Life Network on the weekend of February 4-5. Before then you may put your full bottles in the tote under the table in the church entryway.

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. Thanks for helping her during this trying time.

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.

Worship Greeters

Sat. Jan. 28	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Jan. 29	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat. Feb. 4	5 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sun. Feb. 5	8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. Feb. 11	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Feb. 12	8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. Feb. 18	5 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sun. Feb. 19	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel
Sat. Feb. 25	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Feb. 26	8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf

We need two people or one couple to serve as greeters for the Sunday late service!

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Jan. 28	5 p.m. Case Hess
Sun. Jan. 29	8 a.m. Amelia Guebert 10:30 a.m. Brodie Stenzel
Sat. Feb. 4	5 p.m. Joey Biffar
Sun. Feb. 5	8 a.m. Brody Stellhorn 10:30 a.m. Connor Bumann
Sat. Feb. 11	5 p.m. Landon Ruebusch
Sun. Feb. 12	8 a.m. Jack Muench 10:30 a.m. Ian Moll
Sat. Feb. 18	5 p.m. Colt Hess
Sun. Feb. 19	8 a.m. Eve Schwartzkopf 10:30 a.m. Lilly Meyer
Wed. Feb. 22	8:30 a.m. Shamus Korves 7:00 p.m. Jack Kennedy
Sat. Feb. 25	5 p.m. Cali Hoffman
Sun. Feb. 26	8 a.m. Claire Carnahan 10:30 a.m. Karleigh Liefer
Wed. March 1	8:30 a.m. Carson Moll 7:00 p.m. Peighton Cox

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

Musical Opportunities

Calling all students, youth, and adults who sing/play an instrument! I am looking for anyone who is interested in using your gifts of music to enhance our weekend worship services by providing pre-service music before the worship services begin. I welcome everyone, from beginner to advanced! If you would like to play/sing in a different part of the service, that can be arranged also. If you are interested, please let me know!

Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Open House & Preschool/Kindergarten Registration

We invite you to see what St. John's Lutheran School offers at our Open House from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15. You can tour the school, visit with the teachers, and enjoy a bowl of soup or hot dogs. Prospective preschool (3 and 4-year-old) and Kindergarten families also will have the chance to sign up for the 2023-2024 school year. Come join us for a night of fellowship and stay to see what our Parent Teacher League (PTL) is all about as their meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Custodial Assistance Needed

A part-time paid position is available in our church custodian rotation for about 8-12 hours every two weeks. We need someone for Saturday evening service ONLY and/or Sunday morning services. Training is 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 for 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 thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We look forward to working with you!

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!

LCMS Foundation

Dan was talking with his friend, Gary, about his estate plans. Dan said, "My children are always prying, asking about my plans, but I don't want to tell them. I want to leave it a surprise."

Gary responded, "I am not sure that is a good idea." Dan snorted, "Why is that?"

"This is going to be the biggest gift you have ever given them and by far the biggest gift they have ever received. Don't you want them to be prepared? Beyond that, I know you are leaving a gift to our Church in your estate. You told me about it. Don't you want them to join with you in your plan, to celebrate what God is doing?"

"You seem to know a lot about this. What made you so smart, Gary?" "I'm not smart. Diane and I worked through our plan with the LCMS Gift Planning Counselor and she helped us think about these things. I think you should give her a call. The last thing you want to do is ruin your great relationship with your children and grandchildren."

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.

2023 Parent-Teacher League Dinner Auction

The 13th annual dinner auction will be held on March 18 at Hecker Community Center. Students will be selling tickets after 10:30 a.m. church services on January 29 and February 12. Donations and/or reservation forms can be dropped off in the school office at any time. Thank you in advance for your support of this fundraiser!

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.

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter

Don't Replace "And" with "Or"

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word "and" with the word "or." It is always written with the "and", but when we read it, we see it with the word "or." Thus, this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have are gifts from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, or talents or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way around: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God.

We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.



February Church and School Calendar

SUNDAY, January 29-

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 Senior Youth serve a soup and sandwich lunch in the FH
1:00 p.m. Annual Voters' Assembly meeting in the FH

Monday, January 30-

6:30 p.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting in the school library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, January 31- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 1-

8:30 a.m. Upper grades School Chapel in the 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
5:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Chester Grade School
7:30 p.m. Bible class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, February 2- *Science Fair at school*

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
5:30 p.m. Girls' volleyball at TSJ in Nashville
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
Friday, February 3- *B Team Volleyball tournament at Rocher*
8:30 a.m. Lower grades School Chapel in the new gym

Saturday, February 4-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
6:15 p.m. *Boys' Basketball state game at Rend Lake College*

SUNDAY, February 5- *Lutheran Hour Ministries Sunday*

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
Noon Senior Youth gathering in their church basement hangout

Monday, February 6-

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, February 7-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference in Campbell Hill
1:00 p.m. Mad Science presentation in the school's old gym
6:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball game at St. John in Chester

Wednesday, February 8-

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 p.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education in school library
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, February 9-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
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' Volleyball at home versus Evansville
7:00 Men's Club gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 10- *C team volleyball tourney at RBC*

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades Chapel Service in the new gym
Saturday, February 11- *A team volleyball tourney at St. Mary's*
5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, February 12- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
2:30 p.m. Pastor Nebel's presentation on parables at Ruma

Monday, February 13-

5:30 p.m. Girls' volleyball at home versus Valmeyer
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school's music room

Tuesday, February 14-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center

Wednesday, February 15-

8:30 a.m. Upper Grades School Chapel 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
5-7 p.m. School Open House with soups/desserts
7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher League meeting in the cafeteria
7:30 p.m. Bible Class (1st Chronicles) in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 16-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
4:30 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in Pastor's office
5:30 p.m. Girls' AB volleyball at home versus St. Libory
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, February 17- *Boys' Bball at Peoria; Girls' B Vball here*

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades School Chapel in the new gym
11:20 a.m. Early dismissal; 12:30 p.m. Faculty meeting

Saturday, February 18-

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

SUNDAY, February 19-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, February 20- *No School; Presidents' Day*

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

Tuesday, February 21-

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Coulterville
7:00 p.m. Evening Guild gathering in the Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, February 22- *Ash Wednesday; Lent begins!*

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion 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

5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper in the Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion service at church

Thursday, February 23-

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
6:00 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Prairie du Rocher

Friday, February 24- *Vball tourneys- A @ Chester; C here*

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades Chapel service in the new gym

Saturday, February 25- 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, February 26- 8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Adult/Youth Bible classes and Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation team meets in the FH

Monday, February 27-

6:30 p.m. Sunday School teachers meeting in the library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

Tuesday, February 28-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place
4:15 p.m. Girls' Volleyball at Steeleville Public