

The Epistle

APRIL 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 Lenten Devotional Booklet of our Seminaries

By Joseph Eggerman of Concordia-St. Louis

“The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” So says Isaiah 53:6b. God is not a God who goes back on His promises. He promised that the wages of sin would be death, and death is what befell the God-man who took our place in the judgment of God’s wrath. Abandoned by His disciples, ridiculed by those who should have worshipped Him, and forsaken by His Father, Christ suffered the stroke of judgment that we so rightfully deserve.

A perverted, twisted irony... the only truly just man, Jesus Christ, took on the sin of all mankind—took on your sin—and He died an excruciating, criminal’s death. He bore the justice that was rightfully metered out onto a sinful creation. Through Christ, God’s justice gives way to His mercy, for Jesus has atoned for your sin, has brought you out of condemned darkness into the dawn of the resurrection-hope. Groaning gives way to rejoicing, agony into praise... the stroke that justice gave won for us salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ, which washes you clean and redeems you totally. Your rightful place is no longer on the cross but hidden behind the folds of a garment washed clean in the blood of the Lamb.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus bore all our iniquity on the cross. Deliver us from despair and the rejection of Your judgment, that we may forever and always believe, teach, and confess the wondrous story of salvation by which we are delivered; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who won for us atonement with You forever.

Your Pastors’ Ponderings

There is so much happening this month, especially our special worship opportunities. We want to see you for Palm Sunday on April 1st or 2nd but please allow the late service to be for families and guests of our 31 young people who will confess their Christian faith through the Rite of Confirmation in that service.

Then we have Holy Communion on April 6, Maundy Thursday, at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. The next day, April 7, at those same times, we will observe Christ’s death on Good Friday with worship in the morning and Tenebrae in the evening.

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with Holy Communion services on Saturday, April 8 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 a.m. (Sunrise) and 10:30 a.m. (Festival). The Easter Breakfast will be in the school’s old gym from 7:45 to 9 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will be from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

I look forward to seeing you and serving you with God’s Word and Sacraments during this special and holy time of our church year!

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I pray this letter finds you doing well. It is hard to believe that we have reached the month of April. The adage, “time flies when you are having fun” holds some truth. While there are trying times, as there are in any of the vocations we serve in life, I have to say that I love that God has called me to be a pastor, even more importantly, a pastor here. I thoroughly enjoy serving all of you here in this congregation as a pastor. So, I thank you.

I hope we were able to make it to all, or at least some, of our Wednesday Lenten worship services. I’m sorry if you were unable to do so. I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed each and every service. They provided me with a time of solemnness, a time to be repentant, a time to rethink all Christ has done for us, and a peaceful atmosphere in which to rest.

Now it may seem weird to some, but even as a pastor it even continues to amaze me that our Lord is always with us. Whenever we need Him, He is there. In times of trials and tribulations, He places His words right in front of us to see, read, hear, and be comforted. Yes, we are sinful human beings and constantly fall short of the glory of God. However, one would think, at some point in our lives, we would truly believe it and never fail to trust in God. Yet even though we fail to trust in Him, He is always right there for us. God places the very words we need to hear right in front of us. In the very midst of our struggles, His words are given to us and we still fall short in trusting in Him ... **ALWAYS**.

Although Holy Week is a sorrowful time of year, we join together in the expectation of knowing how the story ends. Filled with happiness, joy, and excitement, we join together on Sunday, April 9th to hear the “Good News” or Gospel. We join to celebrate the unbelievable and life-saving news that on Easter morning, that third day, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. By doing so, He conquered sin, death, and the devil once and for all. What great news!!!! I pray you will make it a priority in your busy schedule to come and join us. Feel free to invite a friend.

God's blessings to you all,

Pastor Brian Nowak, Associate Pastor

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

March 4 Baptism of Clara Sue Zeller

The Rite of Confirmation: April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Emily Lynn Bowles, Macie Ann Brown

Connor Blake Bumann, Olivia Grace Candler

Kendall Annmarie Crafton, Amelia Grace Guebert

Makannah Nicole Harless, Annika Elizabeth Herriman

Colt Francis Hess, Jack Richard Kennedy

Landon G. E. Kilpatrick, Kadence Jean Koen

Shamus Allen Korves, Kinley Marie Macbeth

Lucas Scott McCarthy, Lilly Belle Minemann

Ian Robert Moll, Jackson Case Muench

Milla Marie Neff, Liam Frederick Quintin

Sage Catherine Pensoneau, Addelyn Jean Rahn

Landon James Ruebusch, Eve Marie Schwartzkopf

Brody James Stellhorn, Quentin Brodie Stenzel

Blayton Pierce Sutton, Olivia Nicole Valleroy

Colby Wyatt Voss, Ty Joshua Voss

Barrett Dustan Wagner

April Servers

Flowers: Anna and Amelia Guebert

Paraments: Irma Birkner

Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

Midweek Bible Classes

Our midweek Bible classes are Wednesday Morning (9:30 a.m.) Women (“Be Still and Know”); Wednesday 7:30 p.m. (1st Chronicles, starting again on April 12) and Thursday 7:15 a.m. (Matthew).

Men’s Bible Breakfast will meet on the first and third Saturdays (1st and 15th) this month at 7 a.m. We are studying the Old Testament book of Proverbs, “God’s Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living.”

Sunday School and Bible Classes

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!

Just as Martin Luther translated the Holy Bible into the German language for more people to read it, so now your \$5 will help Lutheran Heritage Foundation translate Luther’s *Small Catechism* and Bible storybooks into the Ukrainian language for children and youth to read. Many Lutheran children have lost their belongings and are now refugees due to the war of this past year. There also are tens of thousands of unchurched refugee children who could receive these books.

To support this project, please include these people in your prayers. Place your financial gift in an envelope marked “Books for Ukraine” and put it into an offering plate at church or mail it to our office. Thank you!

Sunday School Perfect Attendance for March

Nursery: Clarke Thien, Demi Grohmann, Ben Langrehr, Nolan Liefer; Kindergarten: Jettson Grohmann; 2nd Grade: Liam Langrehr, Amelia Langrehr; 4th Grade: Natalie Kassing; 5th Grade: Payton Liefer; 7th Grade: Sydney Kassing. Thank you for your participation in and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

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 Fellowship Hall 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.

From the Principal's Pen

March has been busy and we are happy that school days are back to normal! We are thankful for this blessing!

The boys' basketball team was chosen to attend the Lutheran Sports Association tournament in Chicago. They earned the fourth seed in the tournament and fulfilled that seeding by finishing fourth place out of sixteen teams. Both the seeding and the result are the highest accomplishments in St. John's Lutheran School's history. This was a fun weekend and we were happy for them to represent our school so well; not only in play but in sportsmanship. They are pictured below.



Front Row (l-r): Cason Birch, Landon Ruebusch, Brayden Schlesinger, Landon Kilpatrick, Ian Moll, Lucas McCarthy, and Carson Moll Back row (l-r): Lucas Summers, Brayden McCarthy, Liam Kilpatrick, Blayton Sutton, Coach Quentin Stenzel, Coach Danny Moll, Coach Nick Quintin, Brodie Stenzel, Liam Quintin, Sutton Jones, and Easton Ruebusch

Eight students from St. John's Lutheran School (pictured below) participated in the Art Contest sponsored by the Regional Office of Education on March 16. Those attending were (l-r) Ms. Amanda Ruhmann; Kellen Herriman, 1st Place Sculpting; Sophia Zeiger, 1st Place Illustrative; Jenna Whelan, 1st Place & Judges Award Still Life; Addison Breier, 1st Place Cartooning; Kinley Macbeth, 2nd Place Illustrative; Amelia Cheek, 1st Place Still Life; Addie Rahn, 1st Place Cartooning; Layla Kilpatrick, 1st Place Figurative Drawing.



Students could have attended the Regional Science Fair at SIU-C on March 7. The students who would have attended were Mallory Arbeiter, Josef Biffar, Kade Liefer, Karliegh Liefer, Molly Kuehn, Addy Schloemann, and Norah Wagner.

The annual Spring Musical was presented on March 24 with two performances. The musical, "Sermon on the Mound" was very well done. We thank our students, teachers and especially Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Valleroy and Mr. Becker for doing such a great job! We thank the 5th grade class for sponsoring Ted Drewes Frozen Custard as a fundraiser after the evening performance, it was delicious!

On March 9th and 10th Heather Nowak, Kristen Sachtleben, and Kristy Young signed contracts with St. John's Lutheran School for the 2023-2024 school year. Heather Nowak will serve as our preschool teacher for three-and four-year olds. Kristen Sachtleben be a part-time math teachers for fifth grade and the junior high. Kristy Young will be our full-time resource teacher and will help as a reading specialist in the younger grades. We feel very blessed to have these individuals in our faculty.

Third quarter awards were presented to the students on March 17:

Kindergarten: Perfect School- Lane Kern, Addelyn Moll, Hayden Schlimme, and Eleanor Smith. Perfect Church- Elaina Heck and Hayden Schlimme. Perfect Sunday School – Jettson Grohmann, Elaina Heck, and Carter Mehring.

First Grade: Perfect School- Riley Hosfeld and Kolton Liefer. Perfect Church- Kayda Kaiser and Ellie Stellhorn. Perfect Sunday School – Ellie Stellhorn.

Second Grade: Perfect School- McKinley Florreich, Brewer Krick, Jack Valentine, Emry Voss, Tripp Wagner, and Brinley Wolter. Perfect Church – McKinley Florreich, Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr, Claire Sachtleben, Jack Valentine, and Caden Wegener. Perfect Sunday School- Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr.

Third Grade: Perfect School- Aliviah Gulley, Blake Horrell, Charlie Liefer, Harper Mounts, and Henry Schnepel. Perfect Church – Henry Schnepel.

Fourth Grade: Perfect School- Aiden Arbeiter, Emma Guebert, Colae Kaiser, Sydney Krick, Presley Liefer, Lauren Mehring, Jackson Neff, McKenzie Niemeyer, and Abby Stellhorn. Perfect Church- Emma Guebert, Colae Kaiser, Lucy Kuehn, and Abby Stellhorn. Perfect Sunday School– Abby Stellhorn. Honors- Alexa Cheek, Lucy Kuehn, and Jackson Neff. High Honors- Ella Birch, Kenadee Crafton, Maybre Falkenhain, Emma Guebert, Sydney Krick, Roxy Markotay, Brody Rahn, Abby

Stellhorn, and Cooper Wingerter. Highest Honors- Aiden Arbeiter, Maverick Cowell, Grant Florreich, Colae Kaiser, Grayden Schloemann, and Holden Wagner.

Fifth Grade: Perfect School- Colton Albert, Aubrey Kiefer, Kaydence Proctor, Blaine Rohlfing, Max Voss, Athena Wolfmeier, and Sophia Zeiger. Perfect Church- Henry Sachtleben. Honors- Brayden McCarthy. High Honors- Colton Albert, Addison Breier, Sutton Jones, Aubrey Kiefer, Jozlynn Palm, Easton Ruebusch, Austin Stellhorn, Elle Sutton, and Sophia Zeiger. Highest Honors- Payton Liefer, Blaine Rohlfing, Henry Sachtleben, and Max Voss.

Sixth Grade: Perfect School- Maya Macbeth, Brendyn Wegener, Cailyn Wilson, and Brooke Wolter. Perfect Church- Jack Sachtleben and Cailyn Wilson. Honors – Liam Kilpatrick and Cailyn Wilson. High Honors- Maya Macbeth, Carson Moll, Jack Sachtleben, and Brooke Wolter. Highest Honors- Ella Cowel and Tessa Stenzel.

Seventh Grade: Perfect School- Joey Biffar, Cason Birch. Perfect Church- Brian Liefer, Colin Korando. Honors- Braylin Eggemeyer, Brian Liefer. High Honors- Mallory Arbeiter, Joey Biffarm Molly Kuehn, Karleigh Liefer, and Lilly Meyer. Highest Honors- Cason Birch, Addalyn Schloemann, and Norah Wagner.

Eighth Grade: Perfect School- Landon Kilpatrick, Shamus Korves, Kinley Macbeth, Ian Moll, Milla Neff, Brayden Schlesinger, Colby Voss, and Ty Voss. Honors- Olivia Candler, Annika Herriman, Liam Quintin, Eve Schwartzkopf, and Colby Voss. High Honors- Kendall Crafton, Amelia Guebert, Kinley Macbeth, Lucas McCarthy, Blayton Sutton, Olivia Valleroy, Jenna Whelan, and Julia Whelan. Highest Honors- Milla Neff, Addie Rahn, Landon Ruebusch, Brayden Schlesinger, and Brodie Stenzel.

Looking ahead to April, the Rite of Confirmation will be on April 2nd in the late service. We pray for these young adults as they profess their faith. Easter will follow the next week with no school days on April 7 and 10. Our school will attend the Regional Office of Education Spelling Bee on April 20. Students from schools in the Randolph and Monroe counties will gather that evening to test their spelling abilities in grades 5-8. The 8th grade class will take their trip to Washington DC on April 14-21st. We look forward to this trip and pray for safe travel. We have 67 students and adults making the trip this year.

May the Lord bless and strengthen you, Mr. Justin Palm

High School Bible Class- Mr. Becker's Classroom

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



Congratulations to the Red Bud Royals grade school girls' volleyball team who won their regional championship in their own gym on March 16. Then on March 25 they won the State Championship after three close matches at Nashville High School. Included on the team are St. John's members Makennah Harless, Lilly Minemann and assistant coach Molly Ellner.

Spelling Contest

The Monroe-Randolph Spelling Contest will be held on Thursday, April 20 at the Coulterville Grade School. We will have three students representing our school. They are Blaine Rohlfing, 5th grade; Ella Cowell, 6th grade and Braylin Eggemeyer, 7th grade.

Euchre Tournament

On Sunday April 23 at 1:00 p.m. (doors open at noon) a Euchre Tournament will be held as a fundraiser for St. John's Class Of 2026 (current 5th grade class). There will be seven games of Euchre, 12 hands per round (3 rounds = 1 game) with partners randomly rotated each round. Team points follow players for all rounds. There will be food from noon—3 p.m. with To-Go orders open to public consisting of Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pulled Pork Nachos, Slaw, Baked Beans, Soda.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three places. Registration is \$15 per person (pay at door, cash only). Location: St. John's Lutheran School Old Gym. Make reservations with Chrystal Kiefer at 618-201-7683 (call or text).

Family Fun Night

A Family Fun Night will be held for children ages Pre-School to Kindergarten at our school on Tuesday, April 25 from 6-8 p.m. The theme will center around the books of Eric Carle, author of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Many fun activities are planned as well as snacks, guest readers and making pancakes. The event is being planned by Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Schmitz.

From Your Director of Christian Education

The somber Lenten season is quickly ending and the joyful season of Easter is right around the corner. The blooming flowers, trees budding, and lawn mowers starting up again are sure signs of spring. We read in the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (ESV). While seasons change the love of God remains forever. Through the death, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven of Jesus we are sealed in our baptismal covenant. Jesus has victoriously risen from the grave!

Another year of successful Lenten dinners has come to an end. I would like to thank the Senior Youth and their families for assisting with the serving, cleaning up, and bringing of desserts. All donations went to the Senior Youth and our future Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans. The Senior Youth also are planning the Easter breakfast after the April 9 sunrise service! I invite all high school aged youth to the High School Bible class held each Sunday morning in my classroom (room 103) from 9:30-10:10 a.m. The Junior Youth will help with the Easter Egg Hunt this year. This will be held Saturday, April 8 at 9 a.m. on the north lawn of school.

I will be the director of the Eighth Grade trip this month from Friday, April 14-21. Thankfully, Mrs. Deitt Schneider will also accompany our group of 69 students and adults as we will be taking two buses. We have added the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC and the Louisville Slugger Museum for this trip. Please pray for us to have safe travels and wonderful learning experiences on our trip out east.

The class of 2026 will host a Euchre Tournament on Sunday, April 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the school’s old gym. Please see the flyer that is included with the Epistle for further information.

Mark your calendars for June 12-16 as we are planning our week of VBS under the theme, *God’s Living Water*. I will host another Stem Camp for students leaving grades five, six and seven on July 10th-14th. More details will be coming for both of these events. Helpers will be needed too! Summer Sunday school will be held in June through August in the school’s library.

The season of learning never stops! Make plans to keep your children and young adults growing each day in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Serving our risen Lord, DCE Bill Becker

***CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!***

Junior Youth

St. John’s Junior Youth (grades 4-8) will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 8 to hide eggs on the north side of School for the 9 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt that morning. If you can, please donate one dozen prefilled plastic eggs to help out. Eggs can be dropped off at the school office.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth (high school) will meet on Saturday April 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the school’s old gym to set up for the Easter Sunday breakfast. We will serve that breakfast after the 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on April 9.

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*

Evening Guild News

Easter Egg Hunt: Our Junior Youth Group will host the Easter Egg hunt for children six and under on Saturday, April 8 at 9 a.m. on the north side of our school building. They need egg donations, please drop your treat-filled plastic eggs off at school no later than Thursday, April 6

Ladies Bunco Night: Tuesday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. All women of St. John’s are invited for a fun evening. Devotions, prizes, food, and fellowship. Devotions: Patti Liefer. Hostesses: Chris Kellerhouse, Patti Liefer, Martha Rohlfing, and Ruth Rohlfing.

Waterloo Mini-Retreat: Saturday, April 22. Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. “A Morning with Katie Luther.” Breakfast, music, and an excellent speaker. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo.

LWML Lower Kaskaskia Zone Spring Renewal - Thursday, April 27, at St. Mark’s Lutheran School Gym. Opening Service is at 9 a.m. Guest speaker: Rev. Stanish Stanley, Ph.D. Executive Director Christian Friends of New Americans Ingathering: Monetary donations for CFNA supporting their ESL program (English as a Second Language). New American refugee family’s closet: paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, hygiene items, baby items, creams, soaps, and laundry detergent.

Quilting for March 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 April (13th and 27th). Call Mary Ann Wegener (618-282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

Men's Club

St. John's Men's Club's gathering this month will be on Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be devotions, a short business meeting and then we will view the remaining episodes of the series "Life Together As Synod." These short videos are designed to help improve our knowledge of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Life Line Screening on April 27

Life Line Screenings will take place on Thursday, April 27 in our Fellowship Hall. These screenings can discover risks for chronic vascular conditions. You can register for one or all four screenings (\$149) by calling 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC. Results will be sent to you and any physician you choose within 21 days.

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.

Worship Greeters

Sat. April 1	5 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sun. April 2	8 a.m. Cindy Steele and Olivia Schmitz 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. April 8	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. April 9	6:30 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. April 15	5 p.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sun. April 16	8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzell
Sat. April 22	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. April 23	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat. April 29	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. April 30	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert

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

Attention Coffee Drinkers

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

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. April 1	5 p.m. Mallory Arbeiter
Sun. April 2	8 a.m. Sydney Kassing 10:30 a.m. Liam Kilpatrick
Thu. April 6	8:30 a.m. Colin Korando 7:00 p.m. Molly Kuehn
Fri. April 7	8:30 a.m. Joey Biffar 7:00 p.m. Kadence Koen
Sat. April 8	5 p.m. Landon Ruebusch
Sun. April 9	6:30 a.m. Addy Schloemann 10:30 a.m. Carson Bowles
Sat. April 15	5 p.m. Jack Kennedy
Sun. April 16	8 a.m. Wiley Minemann 10:30 a.m. Carson Moll
Sat. April 22	5 p.m. Colby Voss
Sun. April 23	8 a.m. Amelia Guebert 10:30 a.m. Brooke Wolter
Sat. April 29	5 p.m. Colt Hess
Sun. April 30	8 a.m. Charlie Muench 10:30 a.m. Tessa Stenzel

*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

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 Foundation

A faithful husband and wife created a sizable estate planned gift for the future, when they were much younger. Today, they are closer to the day when the Lord will call them from this earth. Their attitude has changed about their earthly possessions. Several years ago, they decided that they were going to start giving now the things they had planned to give in the future.

But they comprehended the mistake of doing this too hastily. They wanted to be careful. One by one, they began looking at the pieces of their original gift plan and asked themselves the question, “What would we have to do to give this now?” In some cases, the gifts have been a stock transfer using the LCMS Foundation. Some of the assets are qualified retirement assets like IRA’s. Being older, they can take advantage of the Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) that allows those over 70½ to transfer up to \$100,000 per year to charity.

But they realized this was throwing their overall estate plan out of balance, that also included some gifts directly from their will. Giving God’s gifts to family is also important to them. They had to rebalance as they went. At one point, they asked their LCMS Gift Planning Counselor for some advice and struck the balance they were seeking.

Was it some work? Yes, it has involved some effort. But for this couple, they celebrate the joy of seeing God’s gifts in action. They also have a sense that ministry gifts today can make a big difference. If you want to investigate the possibility of doing the same thing, contact your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor Scott Radden at scott.radden@LFND.org or call 618-977-4049.

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter “A Better Way”

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or

that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2nd Corinthians 8:7–23; 2nd Corinthians 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

In both the Old and the New Testaments the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do? Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

April Church and School Calendar

Saturday, April 1-

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

SUNDAY, April 2- Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult/Youth Bible classes and Sunday School
10:30 am Divine Service (Holy Communion/Rite of Confirmation)

Monday, April 3-

3:15 p.m. Faculty meeting in the school library
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the church balcony

Tuesday, April 4-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in school library

Wednesday, April 5- OVC Senior Track Meet

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

Thursday, April 6- Maundy Thursday

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at church
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
7:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service at church

Friday, April 7- Good Friday; No School; Office Closed

8:30 a.m. Worship Service at church
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae (Darkness) Service at churches

Saturday, April 8-

9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at school for children thru age 6
9:30 a.m. Senior Youth set-up for Easter Breakfast
5:00 p.m. Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, April 9- The Resurrection of Our Lord

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
7:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast served by Senior Youth in old gym
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Youth and Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion

Monday, April 10- No School; Office Closed

Tuesday, April 11-

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

Wednesday, April 12- OVC Junior Track Meet

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, April 13-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
6:00 p.m. Stamm/Howlett wedding rehearsal

Friday, April 14-

6:15 a.m. 8th grade class trip departs from school parking lot
8:30 a.m. Lower Grades School Chapel in the new gym

Saturday, April 15-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (Proverbs)
2:00 p.m. Rebecca Stamm/Zach Howlett wedding service
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, April 16-

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, April 17-

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

Tuesday, April 18-

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Evening Guild Bunco Night in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 19- Weather Bash at Busch Stadium

8:30 a.m. School Chapel Service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, April 20- ROE Spelling Contest

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
4:30 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in Pastor's office
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony
7:00 p.m. Men's Club gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 21-

8:30 a.m. Lower Grades Chapel service in the new gym
5:00 p.m. 8th grade class returns to Red Bud

Saturday, April 22- Red Bud Catholic Track Invitational

5:00 p.m. Divine Service
SUNDAY, April 23- 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
1:00 p.m. Euchre Tournament in the school's old gym

Monday, April 24-

3:15 p.m. Faculty meeting in the school library
6:30 p.m. Sunday School teachers meeting in the library
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school music room

Tuesday, April 25-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place
6:00 p.m. PS and PK Family Fun Night in the school

Wednesday, April 26-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel Service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
3:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Grades 6-8 Public School Confirmation at school
7:00 p.m. Voters Assembly meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 27-

7:15 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)
8:30 a.m. LifeLine Screening in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Randolph County Track Meet at Red Bud HS
9:00 a.m. Lower Kaskaskia LWML Spring Renewal Steeleville
1:00 p.m. Sight Ministries Center in Baldwin
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, April 28- Ag Day at school

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

Saturday, April 29-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, April 30-

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