

The Epistle

JUNE 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

Thoughts About the Bible

'When you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God' (1st Thessalonians 2:13). Here are four things you must believe about your Bible:

1) *It is life changing.* In the parable of the sower, Jesus said, *'The seed is the word' (Luke 8:11).* You may not understand the power within a seed, but you know that when you sow it in receptive soil, it will spring to life; it won't just sit there and do nothing, it will produce fruit. Likewise, your Bible is *'the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe' (1 Thessalonians 2:13 NKJV).*

2) *It works.* *'My word...will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it' (Isaiah 55:11 NIV).* Note the word *'sent'*. Every word God speaks is on a mission and is guaranteed to accomplish it in accordance with His will, His strategy, and His timing.

3) *It is creative.* *'By God's word the heavens*

came into being and the earth was formed' (2 Peter 3:5). God's Word was powerful enough to create all that exists. He didn't strive or sweat, He just spoke, and it was accomplished. So speak God's Word!

4) *It is authoritative.* *'They were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority...they were all amazed...saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out"' (Luke 4:32, 36).* The forces of darkness around you today must recognize and submit to God's Word, so stand on it!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your written Word that helps me grow closer to You as the Living Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Your Pastors' Ponderings

Congratulations to all of our area's recent graduates! God's blessings to all of our St. John's members who graduated from any type of school this year. The list is available for you later in this newsletter.

I attended a number of graduations in the last few weeks. As a family of faith we can be rightly and godly proud of the accomplishments of our congregation's young people. We trust that our Triune God has worked through our Word and Sacrament ministry to make a faith-filled difference in their lives so that they can be a Spirit-filled positive influence on the world around them.

For example, many of this graduating class at Red Bud High School organized and participated in a Christian Baccalaureate Service on May 13. This has not been done there since 1968! All four Senior Class officers were young ladies of our congregation. The student of the year is a member of St. John's and a graduate of our day school. One of our members and day school alumnus is an Illinois State Scholar. Another Illinois State Scholar and the class Valedictorian is an alumna of our day school. One of our members and school alumnus was a junior marshal while another designed the cover for the graduation program. Another St. John's member won a State Skills USA competition through the Career Center of Southern Illinois and is going to the national competition in Atlanta next month.

We pray that our God who has begun His good work in them will continue to do so in their lives until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also pray that as a congregation we continue to be a supportive family of faith for them and the young people we are serving with God's Word.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

Greetings in the Name of our Jesus Christ,
He Has Risen!! He Has Risen Indeed, Alleluia!!

Congratulations to all graduates. I pray God's blessings on you as you proceed into the next journey God has in store for your life. Speaking of life's journey. I would like to provide some words of wisdom, not just for the graduates, but for all of us. **DON'T GIVE UP!!**

Everyone faces times in life when it may feel as if you are being pushed to the limit. Let me tell you that although it may seem like it, nobody's life is perfect. I am no exception. Lately, car trouble after car trouble has occurred. As many of you know, I enjoy working on and fixing cars. Yet, add to this the additional things that come up as well as our daily things that need to be accomplished. It becomes a type of recipe. A recipe that can end in disaster. A recipe that can make the perfect concoction for times when we want to JUST GIVE UP!

These are the times when it can feel as if the weight of the world is on our shoulders. We all endure times when it just seems like we cannot take it anymore. All I can say is, "**Keep pushing forward!**" We need to remember that what we endure in life is temporary. It might not feel like it at the time, but it is. The Bible tells us in John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation."

There is an important thing to remember during these times. God is on your side. God can use each and everything that happens to you in your life for His good and gracious will. God is using everything that we go through in our lives to strengthen us. He is daily strengthening and molding us into the people that He wants us to be. The people that He can use for the future work of His kingdom.

We can count on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has, is, and always will be with us in good times and in bad. We can count on Him for everything. He loves us so much that He even endured the cross and gave up His very life for us. The end of the school year. What a great time for us to be reminded of who God is. What He does for us. What He has done for us. And that He has us in the palm of His hand.

And let us all not forget how John 16:33 ends. It doesn't end at, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation." No, it finishes with, "But take heart; I have overcome the world." I pray that we all continue to remember this in good times and in bad.

God's blessings to you, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

May 7 Baptism of Crew Scott Grohmann
May 13 Baptism of Lynleigh Blake Wingerter

We Bid a Fond Farewell

May 3 Death of David Burgdorf
May 12 Death of Gerald Holmstrom

June Servers

Flowers: Vernitta Wolter and Pam Stellhorn
Parameters: Ella Hemmer 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) and Thursday **7:30 a.m.** (Matthew). Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on the first and third Saturdays (6th and 20th) this month at 7 a.m. We are studying the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

Adult Instruction

Those who are interested in learning the doctrines of the Christian faith as taught in the Lutheran Church are welcome to contact Pastor Nebel to take part in an information class leading to the Rite of Confirmation and communicant membership at St. John's for those who so desire. This class will meet once a week for 12 weeks based on the schedule of class members.

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.

Free Pianos!

St. John's Lutheran School currently has 2 pianos that are not in use and looking for new homes. One is a tall, brown, antique upright piano and the other is smaller, tan-colored spinet piano. Both pianos are in good condition and are in tune! Best of all, they are free!! If you are interested, please contact Lindsey Hudak at 618-340-6055 (call or text) to make arrangements. Thank you!

Cindy Steele Retirement Thank You

On Sunday, May 7, St. John's observed the retirement of our Pre-School teacher Cindy Steele after 30 years of teaching at St. John's with a dinner and an Open House in the school's old gym.

"Thank you, St. John's, for the generous gift I received for my retirement. Thank you to everyone that contributed towards the stained-glass window hanging in the school lobby. I was surprised when it was presented to me. I also express my gratitude for the many cards, congratulations, and gifts I received.

I am thankful for the opportunity St. John's gave me 30 years ago to become a part of this school family. My childhood dream came true when I became St. John's preschool teacher. God put me in places where I received encouragement. He put people in my life who believed in me and helped me along the way. Working at St. John's has brought me much joy.

I always wanted to be a teacher. That dream didn't start becoming a reality until Amanda started school. I began volunteering in Amanda's kindergarten class. Her teacher told me I would make a good teacher, so I started taking classes. I continued volunteering in Amanda and Rachel's classrooms at St. John's. When the school began making plans to start a preschool program and then add kindergarten, I was asked to serve on that committee. The entire time the committee was researching the feasibility and then implementing their plans I was praying I could be part of the Preschool program. When the time came, I was given the position as Preschool aide and then two years later when Mrs. Faith Mueller left, St. John's had confidence that I could be the new teacher. So, with some guidance from Alice Kasten, Betty Schmitz, Deitt Schneider, and the experience I gained working with Faith Mueller my dream of becoming a teacher came true. I also received help from my daughters over the years, especially when I needed assistance with technology.

It has been a joy getting to know, teach, and work with many different people over the years. Each one with their own unique strengths and talents. I have made many great friends. My greatest joy while being a teacher has been sharing God's love with the children daily and watching their faith develop.

I will always cherish the special relationships and friendships I have made with the people here at St. John's. St. John's has been my home away from home and it is hard to step away. I don't know what God plans for this next chapter in my life, but I hope I will be able to stay connected to St. John's in some way. I pray God will bless Heather Nowak as she serves St. John's as your next

preschool teacher and that St. John's will be blessed by her service." *Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Cindy Steele*



Cindy Steele at the Open House for her retirement as St. John's Preschool Teacher on May 7. Shirts displayed in the background are from school musicals on which she assisted.

From Your Director of Christian Education

Looking into the month of June we will hold Vacation Bible School the week of June 12-16 from 9-11 a.m. up at church. The theme is "God's Living Water." Throughout this program, we will emphasize the Living Water, Jesus, through exciting games, lively music, impressive science experiments, and more! Let's celebrate that we're covered in Jesus' grace! Sign up online at: <https://vbsmate.com/StJohnsRedBudIL>. Volunteers are needed too!

Summer Sunday school will begin June 4 and will be held in the school's library starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 a.m. This is for all students from finishing Kindergarten to those entering grade eight.

With school letting out it would seem there will be more time for families to spend time together. Don't forget as you travel away this summer to include the worship of our triune God in your plans. Using the LCMS locator link <https://locator.lcms.org/church> you can incorporate worship into your travels. When you are at home remember we offer 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services year round.

Blessings on the beginning of your summers,
Serving our risen Lord, DCE Bill Becker

From the Principal's Pen

"Thank you" seems so simple for the outpouring of love and support I received for my first year! I was overwhelmed by everything! All the many hours and preparation for all those who worked so diligently to help me out was much appreciated!! I have been so blessed by all of you in so many ways. A special thank you to the faculty and staff who made the year a great experience. The volunteers were amazing and help us accomplish many things we have traditionally done and helped us start some new trends such as "Lunch Bunch" for the teachers. A final thank you to the office staff who have been encouraging and helpful in some very difficult decisions; especially the two ladies that keep me on the straight and narrow when I have too much to do.

The Athletic Awards night was held on May 17. Please watch the North County News for all the special awards. The track season continued even after our sports awards night with the Lutheran State Meet. We were blessed to have twelve students represent our school: six ladies, Jenna Whelan, Julia Whelan, Emily Farmer, Mallory Arbeiter, Maya Macbeth, and Cailyn Wilson; and six gentlemen, Ian Moll, Alan Wolter, Connor Bumann, Brayden Schlesinger, Barrett Wagner, and Blayton Sutton. Some of the highlights were a 3rd place finish by our boys 4 by 100 relay (highest relay finish in school history), Blayton Sutton becoming long jump state champion, and every male athlete finishing top at in at least one of their events which led all of us to finish 7th overall as a boys track team.

The last day of school was May 22 with a closing chapel service, awards and a short time for games before receiving their report cards. We recognized Cindy Steele as a retiring teacher. We all had tears of sadness with her leaving this school she has helped to make wonderful but look forward to her time with family and volunteering here at St. John's

Graduation was held on May 18. Valedictorians for this year are Landon Ruebusch and Broddie Stenzel. Brayden Schlesinger was the Salutatorian. Julia Whelan received the Scholar Athlete Award and Addie Rahn the Citizenship Award. The President's Education Award was presented to Landon Ruebusch, Brodie Stenzel, Brayden Schlesinger, Addy Rahn, Julia Whelan, Jenna Whelan, Lucas McCarthy, Milla Neff, Kendall Crafton, Josie Porter, and Kinley Macbeth. Parents recognized as having their last child graduate for parental years of service were: Kristen Maschoff - ½ year, Waylon & Carrie Schlesinger - 1 year, Jeremy and Becky Stellhorn - 9 years, Dustan Wagner - 9 years, Tonya Wagner - 9 years, Glenn &

Kristen Wolter - 9 years, Jeremy & Heather Voss - 12 years, DuWayne & Karen Whelan - 13 years, Ben & Jill Schwartzkopf - 13 years, Danny & Tammy Moll - 14 years, Joseph & Stacie Candler - 15 years, and Nick and Jackie Quintin - 19 years of parental support. We thank these parents for all they have done for our school.

We are ending our year as always by preparing for the 2023-2024 school year. I will help make plans to transition the daycare to new rooms which will allow us to increase their number of students by 12. This will also include helping some of our teachers move to new rooms; thank you, Mrs. Schmitz. Finally, we look forward to welcoming new staff members Heather Nowak as preschool teacher and Kristin Sachtleben as junior high math teacher. God will continue to be our leader as we follow Him. My you all have a blessed and safe start to your summer my first year would have been impossible without all of you.

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



Our school's track teams competed in the Lutheran State Track Meet on May 20-21. The boys' team finished 7th out of 35 teams. Pictured (l-r): Blayton Sutton, Alan Wolter, Conner Bumann, Barrett Wagner, Ian Moll and Brayden Schlesinger. Congratulations!

2022-2023 All-Year Awards

Kindergarten – Perfect Church – Elaina Heck, Hayden Schlimme. **Perfect Sunday School** – Elaina Heck.

1st Grade – Perfect Church – Kayda Kaiser

2nd Grade – Perfect School – Jack Valentine, Emry Voss

3rd Grade – No all-year awards

4th Grade – Perfect School – Aiden Arbeiter. **Perfect Church** – Colae Kaiser. **Honors** – Alexa Cheek, Kenadee Crafton, Lucy Kuehn, Jackson Neff, Brody Rahn. **High Honors** – Aiden Arbeiter, Ella Birch, Maverick Cowell,

Maybe Falkenhain, Emma Guebert, Sydney Krick, Roxy Markotay, Abby Stellhorn, Cooper Wingerter. **Highest Honors** – Grant Florreich, Colae Kaiser, Grayden Schloemann, Holden Wagner.

5th Grade – Perfect School – Aubrey Kiefer. **Honor Roll** – Addison Breier, Brayden McCarthy. **High Honors** – Colton Albert, Sutton Jones, Aubrey Kiefer, Jozlynn Palm, Easton Ruebusch, Henry Sachtleben, Austin Stellhorn, Elle Sutton, Sophia Zeiger. **Highest Honors** – Payton Liefer, Blaine Rohlfing, Max Voss.

6th Grade – Perfect School – Maya Macbeth. **Honor Roll** – Liam Kilpatrick, Carson Moll. **High Honors** – Ella Cowell, Maya Macbeth, Jack Sachtleben, Tessa Stenzel, Cailyn Wilson, Brooke Wolter.

7th Grade – Perfect School – Cason Birch, **Honors** – Braylin Eggemeyer, Brian Liefer, Molly Kuehn, **High Honors** – Mallory Arbeiter, Joey Biffar, Cason Birch, Karleigh Liefer, Lilly Meyer. **Highest Honors** – Addalyn Scholemann, Norah Wagner.

8th Grade – Perfect School – Kinley Macbeth, **Honors** – Amelia Guebert, Liam Quintin, Blayton Sutton, Olivia Valleroy, Kinley Macbeth, Eve Schwartzkopf, **High Honors** – Kendall Crafton, Lucas McCarthy, Milla Neff, Brayden Schlesinger, Jenna Whelan, Julia Whelan. **Highest Honors** – Addie Rahn, Landon Ruebusch, Brodie Stenzel.

Mulch Help Need

On June 5th a delivery of mulch will be dropped off at the school. We are asking for any parents that wish to help us disperse it across the playgrounds. We will start at 6 p.m. The process will take approximately one hour. Helpers are to bring garden rakes to help even out the mulch. Any and all are welcome with a fellowship time to follow. *Mr. Palm*

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.

Perfect Sunday School Attendance In May

Nursery: Demi Grohmann, Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr; **Kindergarten:** Jettson Grohmann; **First Grade:** Kolton Liefer; **Second Grade:** Amelia Langrehr, Liam Langrehr, Elsie Liefer; **Fourth Grade:** Natalie Kassing, Lucy Kuehn; **Fifth Grade:** Payton Liefer; **Seventh Grade:** Sydney Kassing. Thank you for your dedication to and your participation in our Sunday School ministry!

Junior Youth

Our trip to SkyZone in Fairview Heights is rescheduled for Saturday, June 10. **Drivers and Chaperones are needed!** We will meet at 9 a.m. in our school parking lot. Our Jump Time is from 10-11:30 a.m. *TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE* A 90-minute jump is \$22.99 per jumper plus the cost of the jump socks @ \$3.99 per pair. We will pay for our jump as we arrive. Online waivers must be signed by parents for students to attend. There is also a small arcade and concession stand for drinks and snacks.

Stephanie Valleroy

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*

Evening Guild News

Evening Guild does not meet in June, July, or August. Watch for copies of the June edition of the LWML SID Newsletter and the Summer LWML Quarterly on the tables in the church entrance. The boards will meet on June 1 at 9:30 a.m. to plan for next year. We will need help on Friday, June 23, to make potato salad for the Firemen's Picnic food stand.

Quilting for June 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 June (8th and 22nd). Call Mary Ann Wegener (282-2839) or come to the church parking lot at 1 p.m.

Church Professional Careers

Camp Trinity in New Haven, Missouri offers an Academy from July 16-21 for boys going into 8th grade through those just graduated from high school who are interested in attending seminary or just want to learn more theology. Campers will be introduced to theological study in the morning, including library time, with afternoon activities that include the pool, hiking, fishing, campfires and softball. The cost is \$135 per camper and adult chaperone. For more information visit camptrinity.org or email Pastor Andrew Preus at ajpreus@gmail.com with the subject line "Camp Trinity Academy."

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. May 27	5 p.m. Kendall Crafton
Sun. May 28	8 a.m. Claire Carnahan 10:30 a.m. Macie Brown
Sat. June 3	5 p.m. Lucas McCarthy
Sun. June 4	8 a.m. Charlie Muench 10:30 a.m. Tessa Stenzel
Sat. June 10	5 p.m. Landon Kilpatrick
Sun. June 11	8 a.m. Sydney Kassing 10:30 a.m. Annika Herriman
Sat. June 17	5 p.m. Ella Cowell
Sun. June 18	8 a.m. Jacob Liefer 10:30 a.m. Maya Macbeth
Sat. June 24	5 p.m. Liam Quintin
Sun. June 25	8 a.m. Olivia Candler 10:30 a.m. Jackson Pensoneau
Sat. July 1	5 p.m. Blayton Sutton
Sun. July 2	8 a.m. Amelia Guebert 10:30 a.m. Macie Brown

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

Worship Greeters

Sat. May 27	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. May 28	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
Sat. June 3	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. June 4	8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer 10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann
Sat. June 10	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. June 11	8 a.m. Cindy Steele and Olivia Schmitz 10:30 a.m. Gerald and Jill Hanebutt
Sat. June 17	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. June 18	6:30 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel
Sat. June 24	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. June 25	8 a.m. Loren Harms and Lisa Quinn 10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat., July 1	5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. July 2	8 a.m. Roger and Peggy Hanebutt 10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert

We need one or two people or one couple to serve as greeters for the 5th Saturday of the month (4x a year).

Congratulations to All our Graduates!

These members of St. John's have graduated from some level of education this year.

St. John's Lutheran School: Connor Bumann, Olivia Candler, Kendall Crafton, Amelia Guebert, Annika Herriman, Landon Kilpatrick, Shamus Korves, Kinley Macbeth, Lucas McCarthy, Ian Moll, Milla Neff, Liam Quintin, Addelyn Rahn, Landon Ruebusch, Eve Schwartzkopf, Brody Stellhorn, Brodie Stenzel, Blayton Sutton, Olivia Valleroy, Colby Voss, Ty Voss, Barrett Wagner

Red Bud Elementary School- Emily Bowles, Makennah Harless, Colt Hess, Kadence Koen, Lilly Minemann, Jackson Muench

Prairie du Rocher Elementary School- Sage Pensoneau
Chester Grade School- Jack Kennedy
Smithton Elementary School- Macie Brown

Red Bud High School

Riley Candler, Ashlynn Crafton, Madison Falkenhain+, Mitchell Fleming*, Grace Guebert+, Ashton Liefer, Simone Liefer, Kyle Loughner, Carolyn Mulherin+, Aubrey Piel+(Student of the Year), Madison Proctor, Noah Tepe

+ class officer; *Illinois State Scholar

Career Center of Southern Illinois- Cody Strong (Skills USA State of Illinois Champion for Auto Collision Repair)

College/University Graduates

Reagan Birkner, Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education
Jessie Deterding, Southeast Missouri State University
Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Criminology
Dylan Falkenhain, St. Louis Community College
Associate of Science in Funeral Service
Emma Fritsche, Southeast Missouri State University
Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication
Hailey Guebert, Southwestern Illinois College
Associate of Arts
Alyssa Heller, Southeast Missouri State University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Amber Mollet, Southeast Missouri State University
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Brittney Pensoneau, St. Louis University
Bachelor of Science in Forensics and Biology
Alexander Sievers, University of Alabama, Huntsville
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Callie Todaro, North Central College
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

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. Let me know if you are interested! *Mrs. Lindsey Hudak*

Student Aid Endowment Fund Golf Scramble

Our Southern Illinois Student Aid Endowment Fund Golf Scramble will be held on Saturday, June 10 at Roland Barkau Golf Course in Okawville. This raises money to provide tuition assistance for members of our SID congregations who are studying for church professional careers.

You can participate by being a golfer on this date. Please see Pastor for more information on that. You also could be a sponsor for this event. Forms for that are on the bulletin board by the ramp door at church. Thank you!

LCMS Foundation

Sam attended college 44 years ago. This year, he finally retired. His work as an engineer consumed his life. To be responsible, Sam maximized amounts he could place in his 401(k) and managed to create other investments as well. Yet, because of his busyness, Sam never really thought much about using those gifts of God. His focus was on working and saving.

Yet now, in retirement, for the first time in a long time, Sam's mind is not consumed by work. He was out for a walk on a trail near his home in the middle of the afternoon enjoying the spring day. His mind trailed off to ponder what a plan for faithfully using God's financial gifts would look like. He was never married, without heirs, and inheritance was not a priority. Suddenly, retirement showed the opportunity laid out in front of him to plan for current and future support of his favorite ministries, like his home congregation. Yet he really didn't know where to start. He decided to call his LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor whom he just met this past Sunday after worship over a cup of coffee.

God has a habit of surprising us with more gifts than we could ever imagine we would steward for His glory. It shouldn't surprise us. St. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9, "*You will be enriched in every way to be genuine in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*" Is it time for you to ponder the faithful works for which God has been preparing you since before time? Your

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott Radden at Scott.Radden@LFND.org or by calling his cell at 618-977-4049.

LCMS Stewardship: What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

June Church and School Calendar

Saturday, May 27-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, May 28-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (school library); Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, May 29- Memorial Day; Office Closed!

Pastor Nebel, Mr. Becker and Mrs. Hudak on vacation this week

Tuesday, May 30-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 31-

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

No Wednesday evening Bible class!

Thursday, June 1-

No Thursday morning Bible class!

Saturday, June 3-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

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

Perry County Lutheran Chorale will sing in this service

SUNDAY, June 4- The Holy Trinity

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, June 5- Sara Shepherd on vacation this week

7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 6-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Baldwin

Wednesday, June 7-

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, June 8-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Saturday, June 10-

9:00 a.m. Junior Youth Outing to SkyZone

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, June 11-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion

Noon Senior Youth gather in their church basement hangout

1:00 p.m. VBS decorating in sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 12-

9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church

Tuesday, June 13-

9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service at Red Bud Care Center

Wednesday, June 14-

9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Board of Parish Education meets in school library

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, June 15-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church

1:00 p.m. Office Staff meeting

Friday, June 16-

9-11 a.m. Vacation Bible School at church

11:00 a.m. VBS Closing Service at church

Saturday, June 17-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

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

SUNDAY, June 18- Happy Father's Day

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Divine Service (Alternative)

Monday, June 19-

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

Tuesday, June 20-

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, June 21-

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, June 22-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

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

Saturday, June 24-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, June 25-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

4:00 p.m. March in the Firemen's Picnic Parade

Tuesday, June 27

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place

Wednesday, June 28-

9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (1st Chronicles)

Thursday, June 29-

7:30 a.m. Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Matthew)

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

Saturday, July 1-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

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

SUNDAY, July 2-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

May God Bless All our Christian Fathers!

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.

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, Discussing Homosexuality, End of the World, Eternal Election and Predestination, 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.