



Third Sunday in Advent
St. John's Lutheran Church Red Bud, Illinois
December 16-17, 2023 5 p.m. & 8 a.m.



PRELUDE: (*Sat.*) "Ring Bells, Go Ring-A-Ling-A-Ling" *Bell Choir*
 (*Sun.*) "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" *arranged by James L. Brauer*

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice" (*stand for last stanza, "A-men"*)



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Divine Service Three, page 184ff.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: pages 184-185

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
 C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

INTROIT: Psalm 85



Show us Your steadfast love, | O LORD,* and grant us Your sal- | va-tion.
 His salvation is near to those who | fear Him, that glory may dwell | in our land.
 Yes, the LORD will give | what is good, and our land will yield its | in-crease.
 Righteousness will go be- | fore Him and make His foot- | steps a way.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son and to the Holy | Spir-it;
 as it was in the be- | gin-ning, is now, and will be forever. | A-men.
 Show us Your steadfast love, | O LORD, and grant us Your sal- | va-tion.

KYRIE: (*sung*)

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us, Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

(We omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* during Advent.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you. C: (*sung*) And with thy spirit. P: Let us pray.
 C: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (*please be seated*)

ANTHEM: (*Sat.*) "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" Bell Choir
 (*Sun.*) "Herald of Good News" (arranged by Jeffrey Blersch) Choir

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.**GRADUAL:**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

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

From the house of the Lord we bless you.**THE EPISTLE READING:****1st Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.*(please stand if able)* **ALLELUIA and VERSE:** page 190 *(sung)***Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL:**John 1:6-8, 19-28**P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.C: (*sung*) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands One you do not know, even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: (*sung*) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.****OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed: page 191**

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: 346 "When All the World Was Cursed"



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con - dem - na - tion,
 2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

© 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012179. Public domain

SERMON: "Bearing Witness to Our Christmas Light" John 1:6-9

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

OFFERTORY: pages 192-193

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.

Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it.

A - men.

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

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

HEALING AND COMFORT: Edna Moeller, Lorine Reinhardt, Sharon DeRousse, Doris Stamm, Ruth Hecht, Rev. Russell Koen, Sherry Winkelman, Gary Schwartzkopf, Nancy Langrehr, Randy Miller, Jay Prigge, Marcy Watters, JoAnna Ellner, Ryan Valleroy, Sarah Roy, Ashlynn Crafton, Jack Kennedy; *Family/Friends of St. John's Members:* Gary Hayes, Caleb Caesar, Karen Stark, Tyson Moonier, Dorothy Fulton, Rhonda Black, Mike Coffey, Jeff Gulley. *Help us keep this list current!*

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

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

+thanksgiving for the 30th anniversary of Randy & Rachel Miller on December 18

+those who mourn: the families of Faye Schwartzkopf, Dean Kloth (father of Leslie Wolter) and Donald Ray Salger (son of Verla Salger)

+for peace in the Holy Land and comfort for those who mourn and suffer

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT: page 194ff.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION: In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. For more information about this sacrament, please see pages 326-327 and 329-330 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

P The Lord be with you. C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and

archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying: (*sung*)

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo-ry.

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Pastor prays the prayer; congregation sings the Doxology*)

...For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo-ry for-ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD AND THE PAX DOMINI

P: ...The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: (*sung*) **A-men.**

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est away the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A-men. (*please be seated*)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)

Anthem: (*Sat.*) Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" *Bell Choir*

(*Sun.*) "Jesu, Joy of My Desiring" (arr. by C. Wacker) *Choir*

357 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"



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



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



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



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

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

Public domain

333 "Once He Came in Blessing"



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



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



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



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

© 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012179. Public domain

332 "Savior of the Nations" (*we stand for the last stanza, sing "A-men."*)



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



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



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

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

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

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

(Please stand if you are able)

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

© 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012179.; © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012179. Public domain

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

NUNC DIMITTIS: "Song of Simeon" pages 199-200 *(please stand if able)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre-pared before the face of all people, a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy peo-ple Is-ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C (*sung*) and His mercy endureth for-ev-er.

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C (*sung*) Amen.

SALUTATION, BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P The Lord be with you. C (*sung*) And with thy spir-it.

P Bless we the Lord. C (*sung*) Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and (+) give you peace. C (*sung*) A-men, a-men, a-men.

CLOSING HYMN: 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



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



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



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



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

THE POSTLUDE: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *arranged by Rudolph Moser*

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

This Week With Our Lord, December 17-24, 2023

SUNDAY, December 17-

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

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes and Sunday School

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

Noon Senior Youth Christmas Lunch at Kirk and Stephanie Liefer’s house

Monday, December 18-

6:00 p.m. Boys’ basketball at home vs. Marissa

6:00 p.m. Girls’ basketball at SPPCS-Waterloo

7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the school’s music room

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

Tuesday, December 19-

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

Wednesday, December 20-

7:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Confirmation classes

9 a.m. & 7 p.m. Daycare & Preschool Christmas service

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

1:45 p.m. Early school dismissal

Thursday, December 21- No school!

9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting

Friday, December 22- No school!

Saturday, December 23-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service; Acolyte: Athena Wolfmeier

SUNDAY, December 24-

No morning worship, Sunday School or Bible classes

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Acolyte: Carson Moll

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion; Acolyte: Addison Breier

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion/Candlelight: Acolytes: Sr. Youth

Monday, December 25- Christ is Born! Glory to God in the highest!

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL:

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

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL LAST WEEK:

Sunday School: 125; Grades 6-8 (AM & PM): 241 & 235

Worship: 367; Communion: 103; Adult/Youth Classes: 44; Sunday School: 60

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

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

We join together in the grace of giving. 12/10- General: \$29,464.81; School: \$1,695. *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2nd Corinthians 9:7)*

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall meets Sunday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. with Pastor Nebel leading the video & discussion of "Big Questions/Biblical Answers." This Sunday's topic is "What About the Missing Link?" Mr. Palm's class on Bible Survey will meet this Sunday in the school library.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Empty Boxes"

This is a Christmas Special with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jason Broege. Listen on KFUE AM 850 Sundays at 12:30 & 5 p.m., on Bott Christian Radio Sundays at 8 a.m. on KSIV 1320AM or 91.5FM or on Sirius XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 9 a.m.

SINGING IN WORSHIP:

December 17, 10:30 a.m. School grades Kdg.-2 "Light One Candle"

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: *LCMS Stewardship Resources*

1st Thessalonians 5:18 – "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord's work, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:

Advent devotional booklets from Lutheran Hour Ministries are on the tables in the entryway for your use during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY:

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of St. John's member Faye Schwartzkopf who died in the Lord Thursday afternoon. Funeral arrangements are pending. Thanks be to God for His gift of eternal life in Christ our Lord!

WEEKDAY BIBLE CLASSES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Wednesday Women are on a break until the new year. The Wednesday evening and Thursday morning classes are on break until the first week in January. Men's Bible Breakfast next meets on Saturday, January 6 at 7 a.m. to study "Proverbs: God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT:

Our mission project this year (10% of offerings) is benefitting the Musketeer Market & Royal Table. These are operated through our local District 132 Schools that supply families with food, basic care needs, and supplies for making birthday cakes for the elementary

children in our local community. Thank you for your participation in and your dedication to our Sunday School ministry!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER:

3-Year-old: Nolan Liefer, Clarke Thien; 4-Year-old: Demi Grohmann, Nolan Kassing, Benjamin Langrehr; Kindergarten: Raelynn Stenzel; First Grade: Jettson Grohmann; Third Grade: Amelia Langrehr, Liza Wagner; Fifth Grade: Aiden Arbeiter; Seventh Grade: Tessa Stenzel; Eighth Grade: Mallory Arbeiter, Sydney Kassing, Lilly Meyer. Thank you for your participation in and your support of our Sunday School ministry!

POINSETTIA GARDEN:

Half-sheet slips are on the tables in the entryway if you would like to donate a poinsettia flower for our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The cost is \$7 and needs to be turned in by December 19. Thank you!

CASEY'S REWARDS:

Cash for Classrooms- When you shop at Casey's using its rewards program you can donate your points to St. John's school through the Casey's app. Thank you!

PORTALS OF PRAYER:

The first quarter of 2024 edition of our church body's daily devotional are available in the racks by the front doors of our church building. Sonshine Visitation members, please pick up a copy for those whom you visit.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024:

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2024 are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not find one with your names on it or have one that you do not intend to use, please call Leslie in our office (282-2394) so she can adjust the list.

POSITION BECOMING AVAILABLE:

The position of Pastoral Administrative Assistant will be open after the first of the year in our church/school office. Hours are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with holidays off. Salary and vacation are based on our Southern Illinois District Salary Guidelines. For a job description and/or application, please call our office at 282-2394.

WARMING TREE:

Your donation of new coats, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, underwear and blankets to our "Warming Tree" in the Fellowship Hall (or lobby at school) will be given to local families in need to help them stay warm this winter.

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Wed. 20 9 a.m./7 p.m. Early Childhood Christmas Service (school)

Sat 23 4th Sunday in Advent (5 p.m.)

There will be no Sunday morning services or classes on the 24th!

Sun 24 3 and 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Sun 24 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Communion & Candlelight

Mon 25 9 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sat/Sun 30/31 *1st Sunday of Christmas (5 p.m. & 10 a.m.)

Sun 31 5 p.m. New Year's Eve Holy Communion

Mon Jan. 1, 10 a.m. New Year's Day Matins

SENIOR YOUTH:

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

PARISH NURSE NOTE: LCMS *Better Health* "Myth vs. Reality"

Researchers have found that daily multivitamins do not provide any meaningful health benefit. Nutrition experts recommend that we use the money we otherwise would spend on vitamins to buy fruit, vegetables and whole grains instead.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS:

Pastor Nebel would like to begin an Adult Instruction Class in January to cover the basics of Christian Doctrine as taught in the Lutheran Church. This would be a good refresher course for those already confirmed or it could lead to communicant membership at St. John's for those who so desire. Contact Pastor if you have or know of one who has an interest in this class. Day and time TBD.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Red Bud High School seniors and St. John's members Addi Dilley, Lyla Hess and Ryker Papenberg have been named Illinois State Scholars for 2024.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!:

12/17- Vernon Muench, Lori Langrehr; 12/18- Joan Wiegand, Kyle Winkelman; 12/20- Jacob Moll, Jeremy Collins; 12/21- Madison Falkenhain, Maggie Brown, Ava Clifford, Layla Kilpatrick, Langston Wiegard; 12/22- Addalyn Schloemann; 12/23- Nikolas Stechmesser, Olivia Schluter. *Call our office with corrections!*

THE PRAYER CHAIN:

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

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT:

Three Springs in Chester: Eunice Wiatr; Waterloo Oak Hill: Ken Ruwald, Jody Winkelmann; Waterloo Magnolia Terrace: June Lawrence & Jean Menke; Randolph County Nursing Home: Don Kueker; Bethesda Gardens-Kirkwood: Ruth Hecht; Garden Place, Waterloo: Sharon DeRousse.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH AT GARDEN PLACE:

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

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH CONFINED IN-HOME:

Wil Guebert, Don/Betty Fausz, Nancy Holmstrom, Barb Korves, Joyce Lopez, Ed Luttman, Edna Moeller, Viola Muench, Harold Thies

ELDER ZONES FOR 2023: (Chairman, Gerald Hanebutt)

Zone 1: D. Adams thru R. Collins- Elder Bruce Schneider (618/521-0028)

Zone 2: S. Conboy thru D/K Grohmann- Elder Larry Gielow (618/830-4689)

Zone 3: N/E Grohmann- R/K Herriman- Elder Jeremy Stellhorn (618/910-9205)

Zone 4: R. Herriman thru T/E Krick- Elder Wil Krick (618/282-3660)

Zone 5: Wil/Martha Krick to Janel Maes- Elder Gary Buatte (618/719-5034)

Zone 6: Pat Malik thru Lanie Pensoneau- Elder Gerald Hanebutt (618/317-4574)

Zone 7: A/A Piel thru Don Schrader- Elder Kalin Liefer (618/792-8277)

Zone 8: J/D Schrader thru B/C Turner- Elder Kevin Guebert (618/973-4356)

Zone 9: D/K Uffelmann – D. Zschiegner- Elder Joshua Voss (618/719-1840)

CHRISTMAS AT PEACE:

Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road in South County, will hold a special service this Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. featuring the Orchestra of Peace, the Bells of Peace and internationally renowned soprano Christine Brewer.

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER WANTED:

The Southern Illinois District Office is currently seeking a part-time, 20 hour per week, Bookkeeper beginning immediately to manage the accounting and financial matters for the district. Knowledge with QuickBooks and previous experience is preferred. All interested applicants may contact Mr. Jeffrey Fick at sidlcmsage@gmail.com for details and or send a resume.

ISSUES, ETC.:

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to weekly studies of the Biblical texts, prayers and hymns of the day. Pastor Sean Daenzer of LCMS Worship leads us through the three-year lectionary. Tune in live weekdays from 3-5 p.m. on KFUE 850 AM or listen at issuesetc.org.

LIFE THOUGHTS FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE: www.lutheransforlife

Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

KFUE AM 850 LUTHERAN RADIO:

KFUE Radio AM 850 & kfuo.org, a media ministry of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you on AM 850 & kfuo.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfuo.org and wherever you get podcasts! Find us on social media @KFUE.org, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This week on KFUE AM850, look ahead to the Fourth Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (12/20 at 9:00 a.m.), dive into Advent hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00

a.m.), and study 1st Corinthians 15-16 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.). The 12 Days of Christmas begins December 24 with music and messages for the Christmas Season! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app.

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

FFA Fundraiser: The COS FFA is selling Stonie's Snack Sticks for \$1 each. They are available in a variety of flavors. Contact the school, a COS FFA member or Lisa Luebke to order. The snack sticks make a tasty stocking stuffer.

The COS Trivia Night and Silent Auction to support Post Prom and our mission trip will be Friday, January 19. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the trivia starts at 7:00. Adults \$15, students \$7 with up to eight people per table. Reserve your spot by filling out this form: <https://bit.ly/COSTrivia2024> or calling 618-853-7300.

Sponsor a Thrivent Action Team: If you would like to organize or participate in a Thrivent Action Team to benefit COS, please call us to let us know what you would like to do. We can help you fill out the application.

Registration for Second Semester 2023-2024 is open! If you have a student or know someone who is high school age, encourage them to consider Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School. Call 853-7300 to schedule a private tour. Registration for 2024-2025 will start in January. Learn more and download a registration form from our website, www.coslhs.org.

The mission of Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School is to provide a Christ-centered and academically excellent education.

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

Church Office & School: 808 S Main Street 618/282-3873 Fax 618/282-4087

E-mail: office@stjohnsredbud.org Web address: www.stjohnsredbud.org

Senior Pastor Mark Nebel 618/237-5802 or home 618/282-3050

Associate Pastor Brian Nowak 708/369-7741 Principal – Mr. Justin Palm 618/214-1103

Director of Parish Music – Mrs. Lindsey Hudak 618/340-6055

Director of Christian Education/School Librarian–Mr. Bill Becker 618/282-2958

Secretaries – Mrs. Leslie Froemling and Mrs. Sara Shepherd

Senior Youth – Kirk and Stephanie Liefer 618/967-0804

Junior Youth – Erin Kuehn 618/581-5928

Sherry Prange, Principal, Christ Our Savior Lutheran High, 618/853-7300

Faculty and Staff

Preschool – Heather Nowak Kindergarten – Betty Schmitz

First Grade – Rachel Miller Second Grade – Rebekah Liefer

Third Grade – Stephanie Valleroy

Fourth Grade and Before/After School Care – Cindy Nebel

Fifth Grade – Amanda Ruhmann Resource Teacher – Judy Stephens

Sixth Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Doreen Schnepel

Seventh Grade Homeroom (6th-8th) – Nancy Whelan
 Eighth Grade Homeroom: Kristin Sachtleben Athletic Director – Scott Voss
 School Custodians – Wil Krick and Bob Schramm
 Cooks – Jill Gross and Marilyn Oettle

Day Care

Amanda Falkenhain, Director; Kellie Shields, Assistant Director; Lisa Quinn, Amy Williams,
 Nicole Kadlec, Christy Deterding, Patty Brewer, Kristi Martel, Courtney Schoenbeck,
 Brittney Eichholz, Madison Shields, Brooke Supancic, Pam Henry, Melissa Schilling,
 Kaleigh Reith, Kaitlin Schmitz, Haley Ehler, Hailey Guebert, Courtney Schaefer, Brittany
 Smith, Callen Reitz, Kailyn Moeller, Madison Falkenhain, Leah Johnston, Lori Johnston,
 Deanna Ward, Kaitlyn Brown, Emma Wuertz, Madison Trask

Church Council

Chairman: Kevin Liefer Vice-Chairman: Michael DeRousse
 Secretary: Joan Ruwald Treasurer: Eric Fritsche Board of Finance: Jill Gross
 Elder Chair: Gerald Hanebutt Parish Education Chair: Devon Albert
 Trustee Chair: Estate Fund Chair: Brian Guebert
 Lutheran High School Board: Rebekah Liefer and Vickie Heller

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Nebel Organist/Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak
 Lectors: (8 a.m.) Seminarian Lucas Frauenhoff; (10:30 a.m.) DCE Bill Becker
 Acolytes: (5 p.m.) Case Hess; (8 a.m.) Holis Wolfmeier; (10:30 a.m.) Liam Kilpatrick
 Greeters: (5 p.m.) Stanley and Lynn Langrehr; (8 a.m.) Roger and Peggy Hanebutt;
 (10:30 a.m.) Vernitta Wolter and Cindy Ebers
 Video: Eric Fritsche/Justin Palm Communion Cloths: Lynn Langrehr
 Flower Servers: Alverda Rahn and Kathy Rowold Paraments: Irma Birkner