

The Epistle

APRIL 2024

**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

Your Pastors' Ponderings

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I return to my summary of the book, To Baptize or Not to Baptize, by Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, a pastor of the Evangelical Church in America. I introduced this review in this space in September's newsletter.

"While validity asks whether the baptism was administered correctly and intended to baptize as the church baptizes, efficacy asks whether the baptism has achieved or accomplished God's goal of creating and confirming faith, bestowing the Holy Spirit, and conferring salvation on the baptized...It is the perceived gap between validity and efficacy that, at least in part, accounts for the alignment of baptism with human obedience, instead of with God's action, in churches that baptize upon confession."

"The connection to baptism is this: the church and its pastors are authorized to baptize, but they are *not* authorized to judge whether baptism has measurably achieved its goal of creating and confirming faith, forgiving sins, bestowing the Holy Spirit, or conforming to Christ. The reason for distinguishing validity from efficacy is to distinguish what *is* the church's job—

baptizing—from what is *not* the church's job—judging the success of baptism."

"Always examining a baptism to see if it is efficacious yet is to miss the point. *Use* the baptism, and it *becomes* efficacious...No amount of doubt, denial or even outright rejection can undo a baptism...Repentance itself is a sign of baptism at work...To the baptized, exhort faith! But you must never call into question the *validity* of anyone's baptism based on what you can perceived of its *efficacy*." *Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel*

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I pray that you are or were able to make it to a worship service with us during Holy Week. If you were not able to, for whatever reason, please feel free to contact me at 708-369-7741 (cell). I would love to talk with you and schedule an appointment when I can come to your home and bring to you the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, if there's something stopping you from getting to church, I can bring it to you.

While Holy Week is a sad and sorrowful time of the Church year, it is a good time for us to remember the ultimate sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus which He endured for all of people. He completed everything His Father sent Him here to accomplish. He conquered sin, death, and the devil for us. As if this wasn't enough, He is daily working in and through the Holy Spirit to make us better people for the glory of His Kingdom and the spreading of His Word.

Just think for a moment about all the blessings we have received and the blessings we continue to receive each day. These come to us all through the grace of God. We need to thank the Lord for all of these blessings which did not end at Jesus' crucifixion. What an opportunity this provides us. Each Sunday is a mini-Easter, a time when we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, come together to celebrate, rejoice, and hear the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

We also have the opportunity to join in fellowship with one another to help renew, encourage, and lift each other up. We have the wonderful opportunity to come together to sing praises of thanks, joy, peace, etc. to our Lord and to join together in offering up prayers to Him.

We now enter into the 50-day season of celebration, Easter. The alleluias have returned to our worship services. I pray that this Easter Season provides you with opportunities to relax by receiving the peace that only Jesus Christ can provide, that true Peace which passes all understanding.

God's blessings, Associate Pastor Brian Nowak

Pastors' Birthdays Celebration

Our pastors are getting old(er)! Pastor Nebel turns 60 on April 13. Pastor Nowak turns 50 on April 29. To mark the occasion of their milestone aging, we will have a birthday party for them in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 21 from 1-3 p.m. Cake and drinks will be served.

Confirmation 2024

Thursday, April 4, 7 p.m.

Questioning/Examination Service

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.

The Rite of Confirmation

Mallory Lynn Arbeiter

Loreli Marie Aubuchon

Josef Carl Biffar

Katelynn Marie Braun

Case Carl Hess

Sydney Marie Kassing

Colin Lawrence Korando

Molly Ann Kuehn

Brian James Liefer

Kade Kevin Liefer

Karleigh Elise Liefer

Lillian Colleen Meyer

Addalyn Jeanette Schloemann

Norah Caroline Wagner

Hollis Emiline Wolfmeier

April Servers

Flowers: Chris Deien and Linda Guebert

Paraments: Virginia Moeller Cloths: Lynn Langrehr

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).

PTL Dinner Auction Thank You

Thank you so very much for all who donated to and attended this year's Parent-Teacher League Dinner Auction in Hecker on March 16. Thank you to our auctioneers and masters of ceremonies. Thank you especially to the committee members who worked very hard for many months to make this a fun and successful event. The whole evening went very well! We raised over \$100,000 for the support of our congregation's day school ministry!

From Your Director of Christian Education

We have entered the Joyful season of Easter. The signs of spring with 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 victoriously has risen from the grave!

Another year of successful Lenten dinners has come to an end. I thank the fifth grade class and their families for assisting with the serving, cleaning up, and bringing of desserts. All donations went to the class trip fund for their eighth grade year class trip.

The Senior Youth held another successful Easter breakfast. We continue raising funds for the Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans the summer of 2025. The Junior Youth will host their next event on Monday April 8th from 6-8 pm – Roller skating Fundraiser at Skate City in Belleville. The cost is \$7 admission and \$4 skate rental if needed.

I will serve on the National Lutheran School Accreditation team in Hoyleton April 4 & 5. Ms. Sara returns to our office from her maternity leave on April 9! Thank you, Lord; Glory, Hallelujah!!! I have gained a great respect for the chaos she controls!! The eighth grade class and I will lead chapel on April 10.

I will be the tour director of the eighth grade trip this month from Friday, April 12-20. We have 12 guests attending, 13 8th graders, and 17 parents/older sibling attending. We are reversing the order of the trip. We will visit the Creation Museum in Kentucky first. I have added an afternoon in Philadelphia before we arrive in Gettysburg on our return part of the trip. Please pray for us to have safe travels and wonderful learning experiences on our trip out east.

See the separate invite for the April 21 celebrating 110 years of life for our pastors!

The class of 2025 will host a BBQ on Sunday, April 28. We will start serving at 10:15 a.m. and continue until we run out. We will have pork steaks, brats, baked beans, slaw, potato salad, and macaroni & cheese. A free-will bake sale will be held in conjunction with the BBQ too.

On the evening of Sunday, April 28 a free-will donation meal will be at 5 p.m. held prior to the AriSon concert at 6:30 p.m. This will benefit the teacher's professional development planned for October 2025 at LEA Convocation to be held in St. Louis.

Mark your calendars for June 17-21 as we are planning our week of VBS under the theme, *Celebrate the Savior*. I will host another Stem Camp for students leaving grades two through four on July 8th-12th. More details will be coming for both of these events. Helpers will be needed too! Summer Sunday school will be held in June-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*

From the Principal's Pen

The month of March has been busy and we are happy to be moving into spring!! I write this as we move into Holy Week. This is when Christ comes to the forefront even in the secular world. However, Christ and Him crucified is also at the forefront here at St. John's Lutheran School. It is exciting to see the teachers going into great detail about the events and days of Holy Week. Our children are very blessed to have this opportunity and so many others in March.

The girls' basketball team was invited to attend the Lutheran Sports Association state tournament in Chicago. They earned the Consolation runner-up in the tournament. This result ties the second-highest number of wins at the state tournament in St. John's Lutheran School's history. This was a fun weekend! We were happy for them to represent our school so well; not only in play but in sportsmanship. They are pictured below.



Also attending the state contest was our cheerleading team from St. John's. They worked very hard to prepare for state competition. They completed a run that saw no performance deductions. This means that they perfectly fulfilled the requirements of their routine in the eyes of the judges. This was a great learning experience for the team. They are ready to create a new routine that will include technical moves which will earn more points so a higher score can be earned. What an exciting opportunity for the future! They are pictured in the next column.



Eleven students from St. John's Lutheran School (pictured below) participated in the Art Contest sponsored by the Regional Office of Education on March 21. Those attending were: Ms. Amanda Ruhmann (teacher); Sydney Krick, 1st Illustrative Drawing; Presley Liefer, 2nd Cartooning; Alexa Cheek, 1st Figure Drawing; Cooper Wingerter, 1st Sculpture; Kenadee Crafton, 1st Still Life; Sophia Zieger, 1st Illustrative Drawing; Addison Breier, 1st Cartoons; Payton Liefer, 2nd Figure Drawing; Kaydence Proctor, 2nd Sculpture; Amelia Cheek, 1st Still Life; and Hollis Wolfmeier, 3rd Still Life.



On March 10, Ms. Amanda Ruhmann was recognized as the Teacher of the Year for the 14th district of the VFW. She has been a large part of our Veterans Day assembly preparations. She has helped students create vast amounts of art depicting our military in a very positive light. She truly has a heart for the kids and has brought so many new ideas to St. John's. This is a very deserved award!



Our volleyball team entered into SIJHSAA state play on March 12th with the Regional tournament being held at St. John's. The team earned the number one seed for the tournament and fulfilled that by winning two games; one against St. Peter and Paul Catholic School and the St.John/Trinity/St.Mary's co-op in the final to win the regional championship. This allowed the girls volleyball team to compete at the SIJHSAA State Tournament on March 23. Our girls made school history by going 2-2 in the tournament and finishing 4th at the State Tournament. It was a long day but one that was fun and exciting!



3rd quarter awards were presented on March 22

Kindergarten- Perfect School Attendance: Kayleigh Young

First Grade- Perfect School Attendance: Jettson Grohmann, Madalynn Gulley, Elaina Heck, Lane Kern, Carter Mehring, Luke Pollard, Kayli Reinhardt, Emma Schlueter, Eleanor Smith, Ava Wilson; Perfect Church Attendance: Elaina Heck and Hayden Schlimme; Perfect Sunday School: Elaina Heck

Second Grade- Perfect School: Elaina Uffelmann; Perfect Church: Kayda Kaiser and Lynleigh Wingerter

Third Grade- Perfect School Attendance: McKinley Florreich, Brewer Krick, Liam Langrehr, Nolan Liefer, Layla Meyer, Hailey Nichols, Sadie Stellhorn, Emry Voss; Perfect Church: Amelia Langrehr, Liza Wagner

Fourth Grade- Perfect School: Evlyn Heck, Kelly Pollard, Henry Schnepel; Perfect Church: Henry Schnepel; Highest Honors: Haydn Albert, Blake Horrell, Cassidy Palm, Loxton Sutton; High Honors: Kelly Pollard, Aubrey Valleroy; Honors: Aliviah Gulley, Evlyn Heck, Liam Hosfeld, Harper Mounts, Henry Schnepel

Fifth Grade- Perfect School Attendance: Ella Birch, Maybre Falkenhain, Grant Florreich, Colae Kaiser, Sydney Krick, Lucy Kuehn, Presley Liefer, Lauren Mehring, Kade Young; Perfect Church Attendance: Aiden Arbeiter, Emma Guebert, Colae Kaiser, Holden Wagner,

Cooper Wingerter; Honors: Alexa Cheek, Jackson Neff; High Honors: Aiden Arbeiter, Ella Birch, Maverick Cowell, Kenadee Crafton, Maybre Falkenhain, Emma Guebert, Lucy Kuehn, Roxy Markotay, Lauren Mehring, Bordy Rahn, Cooper Wingerter, Kade Young; Highest Honors: Grant Florreich, Colae Kaiser, Sydney Krick, Grayden Schloemann, Abby Stellhorn, Holden Wagner

Sixth Grade- Perfect School: Aubrey Kiefer, Jozlynn Palm, Kaydence Proctor, Austin Stellhorn; Perfect Church: Jozlynn Palm; Honor Roll: Landon Bumann, Amelia Cheek, Aubrey Kiefer, Layla Kilpatrick, Brayden McCarthy, Elle Sutton; High Honor Roll: Colton Albert, Sutton Jones, Payton Liefer, Jozlynn Palm, Easton Ruebusch, Henry Sachtleben, Austin Stellhorn, Max Voss Highest Honor Roll: Blaine Rohfling

Seventh Grade- Honor Roll: Colby Hartmann, Liam Kilpatrick, Lyle Schlueter, and Brendyn Wegener; High Honor Roll: Cartr Hartmann, Maya Macbeth, Carson Moll, Jack Sachtleben, Cailyn Wilson, and Brooke Wolter; Highest Honor Roll: Ella Cowell and Tessa Stenzel; Perfect School Attendance: Ella Cowell and Colby Hartmann; Perfect Church: Ella Cowell

Eighth Grade: Highest Honors: Addalyn Schloemann, Norah Wagner; High Honors: Mallory Arbeiter, Josef Biffar, Cason Birch, Molly Kuehn, Karleigh Liefer, Lillian Meyer; Honors: Emily Farmer, Colin Korando, Brian Liefer; Perfect School: Josef Biffar, Cason Birch, Molly Kuehn, Norah Wagner; Perfect Church: Brian Liefer

The annual Spring Musical will be presented on April 26 with performances at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The musical "Splash Kingdom" will be presented to us with Mrs. Hudak, Mrs. Valleroy, and Ms. Judy Stephens doing a great job of preparing the students!

Also starting in April is St. John's inaugural season for golf. I thank Coach Andrew Stellhorn and Scott Voss for making this happen. A new and exciting activity for the school. *The Lord bless & strengthen you, Justin Palm*

A New Bible Study For Moms

Morgan Buch and Kourtney Meier are going to re-start a mom-focused Bible Study to connect deeper in our faith as we deal with the ups and downs of motherhood. They have identified "Joy: A Study of Philippians" as the first guided topic. This will start on Sunday, April 7th at 4 p.m. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Morgan or Kourtney so they can get you the link to purchase the book and provide you additional details about this Bible Study group. Morgan - 618-317-8246; Kourtney - 618-792-9686

Junior and Senior Youth

This is open to anyone, any age!!! Junior and Senior Youth Group (and family and friends) will hold an Event/Fundraiser on Monday, April 8th at Skate City in Belleville from 6-8 p.m. The skating rink will be closed to the general public, this time slot will be for anyone that you invite to come along! The cost is \$7 admission and \$4 skate rental if needed. Then, the Senior youth will earn back \$3- \$4 per skater at the door that they can use as fundraising toward the National Youth Gathering! They do have a concession stand that will be open.

Our Senior Youth will provide and serve a cake and pinch reception after Questioning Service on April 4.

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.

Evening Guild News

Women's Gathering: Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Patti Liefer will lead the Easter Litany and devotions. The hostesses are Cindy Steele, chairman, Jeanne Stamm and Mary Ann Wegener

LWML SID 2024 Spring Retreat: Saturday, April 20, at Camp Wartburg, Waterloo. Registration is at 9 a.m. The cost of \$20 includes lunch. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God to Christ Jesus for you." The ingathering will be a monetary donation to aid Camp Wartburg with new landscaping. The registration form is available at www.sidlwml.org or contact Sharon Guebert.

LWML Lower Kaskaskia Zone Spring Renewal - Thursday, April 25, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church / Wine Hill, Steeleville. Opening Service is at 9 a.m. Guest speaker: Amanda Douglas of Eve's Restoration Home. Their mission is to reunite families and provide care environments through the hope in Christ. The Ingathering is for Eve's Restoration Home.

Waterloo Mini-Retreat: Saturday, April 27th. Time: 9 – 11 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Theme: "Location! Location! Location!" based on Matthew 7:24-27. The guest speaker will be Sandi Geis. Sponsored by Immanuel's Women's Christian Ministry. Breakfast, music, and an excellent speaker. Ingathering donations of non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies, and art supplies will benefit children in the bi-county backpack program and Camp Wartburg.

Quilting: The schedule for April is Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Midweek Bible Classes

Our midweek Bible classes are Wednesday Women who meet at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday evening's class will meet again beginning April 3; and Thursday morning's class meets at 7:30 a.m. All of these classes meet in the Fellowship Hall. Men's Bible Breakfast will be at 7 a.m. on the first and third (6th and 20th) Saturdays in April as we continue to study the Old Testament book of Proverbs, "God's Ancient Wisdom for Our Modern Living."

Men's Club

St. John's Men's Club will not meet in April due to the Life Network Banquet at The Falls in Columbia. Since our normal May meeting night is Ascension Day Holy Communion service, we next will meet on Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the church garage for our fish fry meal.

Arison Concert

You are cordially invited to a Christian Lutheran Concert that will be held in the new gymnasium on April 28 at 6:30 pm. We are blessed to have Jennie Williamson back with us. She is a performer for all ages and shares the greatest message; Christ Crucified. Our students are familiar with her songs, and our teachers love her music as well! We hope to see you there! A free- will spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and desserts supper will be held starting at 5:00 p.m. in the old gym.

Acolyte Schedule

Fri. March 29	8:30 a.m. Joey Biffar 7:00 p.m. Ella Cowell
Sat. March 30	5 p.m. Layla Kilpatrick
Sun. March 31	6:30 a.m. Addy Schloemann 10:30 a.m. Kade Liefer
Sat. April 6	5 p.m. Brynlee Liefer
Sun. April 7	8 a.m. Jacob Liefer 10:30 p.m. Athena Wolfmeier
Sat. April 13	5 p.m. Sydney Kassing
Sun. April 14	8 a.m. Charlie Muench 10:30 a.m. Wiley Minemann
Sat. April 20	5 p.m. Colton Albert
Sun. April 21	8 a.m. Aubrey Kiefer 10:30 a.m. Jackson Pensoneau
Sat. April 27	5 p.m. Sutton Jones
Sun. April 28	8 a.m. Blaine Rohlfing 10:30 a.m. Katelynn Braun

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. March 30 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. March 31 **6:30 a.m.** Roger and Peggy Hanebutt
10:30 a.m. Vernitta Wolter / Cindy Ebers
- Sat., April 6 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. April 7 8 a.m. Lisa Quinn / Christine Kellerhouse
10:30 p.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel
- Sat. April 13 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. April 14 8 a.m. Kalin and Kathy Liefer
10:30 a.m. Ron and Donna Burgdorf
- Sat. April 20 5 p.m. Stanley and Lynn Langrehr
Sun. April 21 8 a.m. Olivia Schmitz and Cindy Steele
10:30 a.m. Jim and Judy Guebert
- Sat. April 27 5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. April 28 8 a.m. Clyde and Kathy Rowold
10:30 a.m. Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

We need a person or couple to serve as greeters for the 5th Saturday of the month (4x a year) and special services. The only requirements, expectations and duties are to stand for about 15 minutes, smile and say "Good evening" to people as they enter the church. In other words, you can do this!

Welcome to Our Family of Faith

- March 3 Baptism of Eli James Liefer
March 10 Baptism of Madelyn Eleanor Guebert

Southern Illinois District Mission Partnership

Our Southern Illinois District congregations are invited to attend the Concordia the Reformer Seminary District Mission Event scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 at Zion Lutheran in Mascoutah. Erin McKenzie, Volunteer Coordinator for the LCMS Latin America Region will present. Congregations are asked to consider bringing a congregational offering for the Dominican Seminary.

Vocatio for High School Students: June 22-29

Find God's calling and direction for your high schooler's life! Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites ninth- through 12th-grade students to attend *Vocatio: High School* — a retreat that encourages high school men and women to explore many aspects of the seminary, including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation! Registration costs \$100 and closes May 24. For more information, email admit@csl.edu, call 1-800-822-9545 or visit the seminary website csl.edu/admissions/visit/vocation-high-school/.

Lutheran Elementary School Association

Dinner Auction

The 20th Annual Dinner Auction of the Lutheran Elementary School Association will be Saturday, April 13 at Orlando's West in Maryland Heights, Missouri from 6-9 p.m. "A Night for Kids" dinner and auction is a celebration of Lutheran education! The theme is "20s for the 20th." Proceeds from the evening assist LESA in providing financial assistance families attending LESA member schools, professional development for administrator and educators, including faith-based curriculum, and in providing marketing assistance and support. During the 2023-24 school year, LESA has supported 665 students with over \$566,000 in financial assistance. The LESA Board is committed to increasing that support each year. In 2023-24, over 500 additional applications for assistance could not be considered because available funding had been depleted. "A Night for Kids" is a primary source of this funding. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$750 for a table of eight. Tickets include a three-course dinner and an opportunity to purchase both silent and live auction items. This year's items include tickets for St. Louis City games, Champions Club seating for Cardinals games and Busch stadium, and Ozzie Smith autographed items. Contact Ameer Colvin at (314) 200-0797 or acolvin@lesastl.org or at www.LESAstl.org

Lutheran Hymn Festival

The year 2024 is the 500th Anniversary of the publication of the first Lutheran hymnal, Etlich Cristlich lider, (also often called the Achtliederbuch) which was published in Wittenberg early in 1524. In honor of this anniversary, Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah will host a hymn festival on Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 p.m.

This hymn festival will feature several hymns first published in this earliest Lutheran hymnal, as well as more recent Lutheran contributions to hymnody. Each hymn will be preceded by a commentary given by an area LCMS pastor to give the background and meaning of the hymn. The hymn festival is free and open to all. Come and join in the great Lutheran tradition of singing hymns together at Zion-Mascoutah at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14!

Financial Need For Medical Treatment

St. John's member and recent Red Bud High School graduate 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.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“Whose Is It Anyway?”

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So, a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it: *You shall not steal. What does this mean?* “We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.”

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1ST Corinthians 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

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.

He is Risen! He is not here!

LCMS Foundation

Years ago, a husband and wife were meeting with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor. Both had been married before, as their spouses had been called home to Jesus. Each of them brought children into the relationship. The assets they brought were not equal. Urged by the advice of various people, they began considering a way in which they could isolate their assets from each other, creating multiple trusts.

Complicating matters, because they truly loved each other, they wanted to provide for each other when the first of them was called home. They felt uncomfortable about such absolute separation of their assets if they truly were going to share their lives as “one flesh”, in keeping with the model of marriage from Genesis 1. They laid out a complicated stream of thoughts before the LCMS Gift Planning Counselor.

After a lengthy conversation, the gift planning counselor noticed an interesting phenomenon about their assets relative to family. Coming into this marriage, one spouse had twice as many financial assets as the other. That same spouse with the greater assets also had twice as many children as the other spouse. The ratio made sense. If they combined their assets and equally divided them among all their children, each child would receive the same amount as if they had put in place a complicated legal set of trusts to separate their assets.

The Gift Planning Counselor conveyed a message to their attorney, and they emerged from that attorney with a simple plan that made them feel content. The plan they created together also allowed them to make some gifts to support ministry in the future. In addition, this plan did not foster an imposed separation between their children.

Taking the time for extended conversation and prayer allowed this couple to discern the right thing to do, rather than pursuing plans that would be expensive, complicated, and less than satisfying. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can meet with you in the same way. Contact Scott Radden at Scott.Radden@lfnd.org or (618) 977-4049 for more information or to start your plan.

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.

April Church and School Calendar

Saturday, March 30-

9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt on the north lawn of the school
9:00 a.m. Senior Youth set up for Easter Breakfast
5:00 p.m. Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion

SUNDAY, March 31- *The Resurrection of Our Lord!*

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast served by Senior Youth in old gym
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes; Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service

Monday, April 1- *No School!*

4-6 p.m. 8th grade confirmation retreat at church

Tuesday, April 2- *School golf at Mystic Oak*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in school library

Wednesday, April 3- *Senior OVC Track Meet*

7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
9:00 a.m. Grades 3-8 School Chapel service at church
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Ezra)

Thursday, April 4-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. School golf at Nashville
6:00 p.m. Confirmation pictures in the church
7:00 p.m. Confirmation Questioning and Reception

Friday, April 5-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel service at church

Saturday, April 6-

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

SUNDAY, April 7-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Bible Classes; Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Communion (Confirmation)
4:00 p.m. Moms' Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall (new)

Monday, April 8- *Solar Eclipse!*

4:00 p.m. School golf at North County Country Club
6-8 p.m. Junior/Senior Youth Roller Skating in Belleville
7:00 p.m. Board of Elders meets in the Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting in the school library

Tuesday, April 9- *Sara returns to the office!*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Chester
3:15 p.m. School faculty meeting
7:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher League meeting in cafeteria

Wednesday, April 10-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School confirmation classes
9:00 a.m. Grades 3-8 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
6:15 p.m. Board of Parish Education meeting in library
7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Ezra)

Thursday, April 11-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
4:00 p.m. School golf at North County Country Club
6:00 p.m. Life Network Banquet at The Falls in Columbia

Friday, April 12- *Pastor Nebel on vacation this weekend*

6:00 a.m. 8th grade leaves for class trip
8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel at church

Saturday, April 13-

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

SUNDAY, April 14-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service (Nursery-1st Sunday School sings)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. Moms' Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall (new)
6:00 p.m. Adult Instruction Class in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 15-

4:00 p.m. School golf at North County Country Club

Tuesday, April 16-

7:00 p.m. Evening Guild Gathering in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 17-

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Confirmation classes
9:00 a.m. Grades 3-8 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
6:30 p.m. S. Illinois District Mission Event in Mascoutah
7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 18-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting; Track meet at Sparta
4:00 p.m. Estate Fund Committee meeting in Pastor's office
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, April 19-

8:30 a.m. Early Childhood Chapel at church
11:20 a.m. Early School Dismissal

Saturday, April 20-

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (Proverbs)
5:00 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. 8th grade class returns from its trip

SUNDAY, April 21-

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)
1-3 p.m. Birthday party for the pastors in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 22- *Achievement Testing at school this week*

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

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

Tuesday, April 23-

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

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Garden Place

Wednesday, April 24- *Weather Bash at Busch Stadium*

7 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Public School Confirmation classes
9 a.m. to Noon Quilting in the Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Voters Assembly Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 25-

7:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall (Romans)
9:00 a.m. Office Staff meeting
9:00 a.m. LWML Zone Rally at St. Paul, Wine Hill
4:00 p.m. School golf at North County Country Club
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the church balcony

Friday, April 26-

10 a.m. and 7 p.m. School Musical in the school's old gym

Saturday, April 27-

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

SUNDAY, April 28-

8:00 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult and Youth Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. Sonshine Visitation meeting in the Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m. Meal and 6:30 p.m. Arison Concert at school

Monday, April 29-

9:00 a.m. Arison Concert at school

6:00 p.m. Sunday School teachers' meeting in school library

Casey's Rewards

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

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, , 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, New Heavens and a New Earth, Philemon, Purses, The Resurrection in Revelation, Was Jesus a Vegetarian?, and Word Dwellers.